THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

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PAKISTAN EYEING INDIA-LIKE DEAL WITH RUSSIA FOR CHEAP OIL

Cash-strapped country set to place its first order for Russian crude next month, its petroleum minister said on Sunday

FIRST SHIPMENT TO BE A TEST CARGO

The first shipment is expected to be a test cargo as Russia demanded the impoverished country to import at least one cargo of oil to prove its intent and ability to bring in Russian crude — given the logistic challenges. A final agreement is expected after the first shipment reaches Pakistan, which currently imports much of its oil from the UAE and Saudi Arabia

MOSCOW IN TIGHT SPOT DUE TO E.U. EMBARGO

- While there is no clarity on the final price, Pakistan said it was getting a discount as much as any other neighbour— a likely reference to India. It initially sought a 30% discount, which Russia rejected
- But the talks have progressed, with Moscow eager to find buyers for its crude after the EU imposed an embargo and price cap on its crude

28 days

IS HOW LONG IT TAKES FOR RUSSIAN CRUDE OIL TO REACH PAKISTAN

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Rahul to file appeal against defamation case verdict

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi will file an appeal in the Surat sessions court on Monday against his conviction in a criminal defamation case. The plea is likely to come up for hearing on Monday, when the former Congress president will also be present in the court.

On March 23, the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate H H Varma convicted Gandhi and sentenced him to two years in jail in a 2019 criminal defamation case filed against him over his remarks on Modi surname. It had held 52-year-old

guilty under Indian Penal Code sections 499 and 500. The court had also granted him bail and suspended the sentence for 30 days to enable him to appeal in a higher court. On March 24, Rahul was disqualified from the Lok Sabha.

According to sources, the 168-page Surat court judgment has been translated by experts, and the petition is ready for filing. Rahul Gandhi will arrive at the sessions court to submit the appeal at 3 pm, his attorney Kirit Panwala said. He will be accompanied by a team of expert lawyers and Congress leaders.

The defamation suit against Rahul Gandhi was filed by Purnesh Modi, a BJP MLA and former minister in Gujarat, for his comment: "How come all thieves have the common Modi surname?" which he had made while campaigning for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka.

According to the Congress, he was targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for having the same surname as fugitive businessman Nirav Modi and former IPL chief Lalit Modi.

Reacting to the news, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said: "This is a welcome step. Though delayed, the Congress has shown faith in the judicial system."

Shah raps Nitish for Ram Navami clashes in Bihar

Says rioters running amok; they will be hung upside down if BJP comes to power in state

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

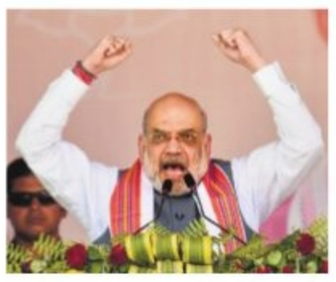
WITH the communal violence during Ram Navami celebrations lingering for the fourth straight day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday lit into rioters warning them of dire consequences for their actions. Castigating Bihar CM Nitish Kumar for the violent clashes in Sasaram and Biharsharif cities, where one person was killed and many were injured in gunfire, bomb blast and stone pelting, Shah said the situation would be different if the BJP was in power.

Addressing a public meeting at Inter School ground in Hisua in Nawada district, Shah said: "Rioters have been on the prowl in Biharsharif and Sasaram. They will be hung upside down if the BJP forms government in Bihar in 2025."

Incidents of arson and looting were reported from the two towns with vehicles, houses and shops being torched and several people injured.

Shah had to cancel his proposed tour of Sasaram on Sunday, in view of the fluid law and order situation. Prohibitory orders have been put in place in the area since Friday after eruption of fresh clashes.

Targeting Nitish for failing to act against the troublemakers, the Union minister said: "I am concerned since you are not able to handle the situation. I am the Union Home Minister and Bihar's law and order is my concern as well."



If lawlessness prevails in Bihar, I cannot be a mute spectator. The state is a part of the country

Amit Shah, Union home minister

Shah also spoke to Bihar governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, which triggered a series high-level interactions in Patna. CM Nitish Kumar called an urgent meeting of top police officials and directed them to identify and initiate prompt action against the culprits.

The officials were also asked to crack down on rumour mongers and bust fake news being spread through social media.

According to police, 109 people have been arrested so far in connection with the clashes.

Meanwhile, nine companies of central armed police force have arrived in the state to assist the local administration restore peace in trouble-torn districts. The central forces were subsequently dispatched to Sasaram and Biharsharif.

FAMED PUPPETEER

Nadoja Belagallu Veeranna dies in car accident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chitradurga/Ballari

NADOJA Belagallu Veeranna (91), a veteran Togalu Gombe artiste (puppeteer) and theatre personality, died in a road accident near Hirehalli village in Chitradurga district on Sunday morning.

The car in which he was travelling overturned when his son BV Hanumantha, who was driving it, tried to avoid a stray dog on Bidar-Srirangapatna national highway, according to a complaint filed by Veeranna's elder son Prakash. Veeranna and Hanumantha suffered serious injuries and were shifted to Challakere taluk hospital around 8.45 am, where the doctors declared him brought dead. Hanumantha is undergoing treatment.

The body was handed over to his family members after conducting a post-mortem. The cremation will take place at Belagallu village on Monday.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, district in-charge minister B Sriramulu and many senior artistes, including Manjamma Jogati, Padma award winner, mourned Veeranna.

Veeranna was born on July 6, 1936 at Siganahalli village in Ballari district. He started acting in street plays when he was 10. Later, he learnt Togalu Gombeyata (puppetry) and started performing it.

Veeranna's "Panchavati Katha Prasanga" created history in terms of number of shows in Bengaluru.

In 1998, he performed a show on Mahatma Gandhi at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

In 1991, he was honoured with the Nadoja award.

He received the Rajyotsava award in 1992.

In 2014, he received the President's award for Togalu Gombeyata. He was selected as Ballari district SVEEP ambassador for the Assembly elections in May.

BJP releases 1st episode of *Congress Files* series, says grand old party looted ₹4.82 lakh cr

New Delhi: Ahead of the expected high-pitched 2024 general elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday launched a frontal attack on the Congress by releasing the first episode of a well-drafted video series titled *Congress Files* dubbed in Hindi. The saffron party alleged that Congress means 'corruption' and accused the Grand Old Party of looting people's money during its rule in the country between 2004 and 2014. In the video, the BJP accuses the Congress of having committed corruption and scams worth as much as ₹48,20,69,00,00,000, calling it "dacoity of public money". The party also called the 10-year period between 2004 and 2014 "a lost decade"

FULL STORY PAGE 7

The Reusable Launch Vehicle used for autonomous landing in Chitradurga, Karnataka | ISRO

ISRO'S RLV SUCCESS TO CUT LAUNCH COSTS BY 80%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chitradurga

THE Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday landed its Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) in an autonomous mode, demonstrating its capability of using such spacecraft to deliver low-earth orbit satellites in space and return to the ground for reuse in a subsequent mission.

This is expected to cut the costs of satellite launching missions by 80%.

The successful experiment, called Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV-LEX), was carried out at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Challakere in Karnataka's Chitradurga district.

At 7.10 am, a Chinook Helicopter of the Indian Air Force carried a winged RLV (a space plane) and flew to a height of 4.5 km to a predetermined spot. It released the RLV from that height, which then carried out a precise autonomous landing on the runway at DRDO's ATR in Challakere.

The technique used to launch the vehicle was "a first in the world" where a winged body was carried to an altitude of 4.5 km by helicopter and released for carrying out an autonomous landing on a runway.

"The autonomous landing was carried out under the exact conditions of Space Reentry vehicle's landing," the space agency tweeted. P5

Cow vigilantes 'lynch' man at Sathanur, five booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A gang of cow vigilantes allegedly lynched the driver of a vehicle transporting cattle at Sathanur near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district in the wee hours of Saturday. Police have booked Punith Kerehalli, a right-wing activist, and four others for murder. They are absconding. The body of the victim, Idrees Pasha (39), a resident of Mandya, was found a few hundred metres away from Sathanur police station.

Police said Pasha along with Irfan and Syed Zaheer was transporting 15 cattle in a vehicle when they were waylaid by the gang members in a car near Santemala Circle around 11.45 pm on Friday. Sensing danger, Pasha and Irfan escaped while Zaheer was caught and allegedly assaulted. The accused allegedly told him that they (Muslims) should not live here and must go to Pakistan. Kerehalli allegedly demanded Rs 2 lakh and threatened to finish him off if he didn't pay them. Though Zaheer tried to explain to the gang members that the cattle were purchased and were being taken to Tamil Nadu, they allegedly assaulted him.

The police rushed to the spot and took both parties to the station, where Kerehalli lodged a complaint accusing them of illegally transporting cattle. A counter complaint was also filed against Kerehalli.

On Saturday morning, after the body of Pasha was found, his family members staged a protest in front of the police station demanding that the accused be arrested. Ramanagara SP Karthik Reddy said the accused, including Kerehalli, are yet to be arrested. The police are awaiting the postmortem report to know the reasons for the death of Pasha, he added.

The family members of Pasha, however, alleged that the cow vigilantes had tortured him to death as there were assault marks all over his body.

Who is Punith Kerehalli?

Punith Kerehalli is a right-wing activist, who has started an organisation Rashtra Rakshana Pade. He actively took part in the boycott of halal meat campaign sometime ago. He had also organised a campaign asking Hindus not to do business with Muslims.

Stray dog found with a newborn in its mouth at Shivamogga hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

AN incident of a stray dog running around with a newborn baby in its mouth has been reported from McGann Teaching District Hospital here.

The dog was found carrying the newborn in its mouth in the wee hours of March 31, but the incident came to light on Sunday.

A woman security guard has filed a police complaint in this regard. In her complaint, the guard stated that immediately after she came for work at 6 am, some people informed her that they saw a stray dog running around carrying the newborn baby in its mouth. They also informed her that the dog came from the building housing maternity wards. When she went to the building, she saw the dog still holding the baby in its mouth. The baby was found dead by then.

McGann Teaching District Hospital in Shivamogga

I have asked the hospital officials to submit a report in 3 days on all deliveries at government and private hospitals in the city in the last 15 days

Rajesh Suragihalli, district health officer

The guard suspected that the baby might have died sometime after its birth. The baby might have been born out of an illicit relationship and the woman left home leaving the dead infant in the hospital. The Doddapete police have registered a case. It is yet to be ascertained whether the dog had killed the baby.

District health officer Rajesh Suragihalli said that the postmortem has been conducted. The body weighed 900 grams. He suspected it to be a premature delivery and it did not happen at McGann Hospital. Three teams have been formed to investigate the matter.

"I have instructed the hospital officials to submit a report in three days after collecting information on all deliveries at government and private hospitals in the city in the last 15 days," he said.

SIMS medical superintendent Shridhar suspected that someone from outside might have kept the baby on the hospital premises. Investigations are on, he said.

The police said that samples will soon be sent to the FSA laboratory in Davanagere for a DNA test.

4 Indians

Among 8 dead trying to enter US illegally

Canadian police have named two of 8 people, including 4 Indians, whose bodies were found along the US-Canada border | P8

ROYAL TREATMENT

Virat Kohli (82*) and Faf du Plessis (73) dished out a chasing masterclass with a 148-run partnership as RCB demolished MI in Bengaluru on Sunday | VINOD KUMAR T

EXPRESS READ

Clashes in Bengal during Ram Navami rally

Kolkata: The communal violence that erupted in West Bengal's Howrah spread to Hooghly district on Sunday evening during a Ram Navami procession taken out by BJP's national V-P Dilip Ghosh and several MLAs. Ghosh was taken out of the area by CRPF personnel | P8

States' job to implement menstrual health scheme

New Delhi: The Centre has told the Supreme Court that it is dedicated to improve access to menstrual hygiene for young and adolescent girls but the responsibility of providing healthcare services lies with the respective state governments as public health is a state subject | P7

THE FINAL OVER

Rare talent, Durani's swashbuckling innings comes to an end

BISHAN SINGH BEDI
Former India captain

I was shocked and sad to hear the demise of my dear friend and great cricketer Salim Durani. The legend has definitely gone. Durani's demise is a great loss for the game and a personal loss for me.

I have known him for decades both as a player and person and he was one of the most humble human beings one can ever see. Tall and handsome, Durani was a delight to watch and had the ability to demolish any bowling attack on his day. To match that, he was a good bowler too. A rarity those days. When we were young and had not got to see much of him we used to hear from all cricketers about Durani's six-hitting ability.

Later we played a lot together and became close. Durani was one of the nicest people around. A totally unselfish cricketer and always a team man.

SALIM DURANI
11 DECEMBER 1934 • 2 APRIL 2023

Durani was equally good as a bowler and his exploits against England are part of folklore. He could fox the best of batters with his bowling. He was also an intelligent bowler. He was a complete package — he could bat, bowl and field exceptionally well and was a true legend in every sense.

When he was dropped, there used to be banners "No Durani and No Test". That showed the love and affection that the public had for him. With the advent of T20 and IPL many people often ask me whether Durani would have been able to adapt to the modern times.

Well, Durani would have certainly adapted as he was a gifted cricketer. With his ability to bat, bowl and field every team would have loved to have him in their ranks. He would have certainly succeeded.

It is indeed a very great loss for all of us, may his soul rest in peace. P11

(As told to Ashok Venugopal)

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 03/04/2023 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Chaitra • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Thrayodasi (Whole Day)
• Nakshatra: Makha 6.58 am • Moon in Kanya Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 34°C
FORECAST Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 6.15 am | Sunset 6.31 pm | Moonrise 4.24 pm | Moonset 4.25 am

Poll stops property tax revision

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

ALTHOUGH elections bring some obstacles to daily government work, there are also some incentives as well.

A citizen realised it when he learnt that there will be no revision of property tax and guidance value this year also.

For seven years, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has not revised property tax. The guidance value of registration of properties was also revised last by the revenue department in 2019.

BBMP and revenue department officials told TNSE: "It does not look like it will be revised this year again because of elections." Stamps and registration department officials said that they had sent sent a letter to the government, seeking permission to undertake revision in February, but there has been no response.

Another request was made to excuse some staffers of the department from election duty, but there has been silence from that side.

"Property prices have skyrocketed after the pandemic across the state. Prices of private properties have soared, but the guidance value continues to be much lower. In some instances, it is one-third of the present market value of private properties. An annual revision is a must, but it is being ignored. In fact, in 2022 rebate of 10 per cent were given twice, to help people," the official said.

Revenue department officials said that that revision in guidance values was not possible due to staff shortage, and those who are working are busy with training and setting the system for launch of Kaveri-2 portal in June.

A senior official from BBMP said: "Ideally revision of property tax is also an annual exercise. But due to political reasons over the years it was not done. It seems for next year also, it won't be done. The government must understand that proper tax systems and revisions are must to ensure high revenue collection. It also makes the government agencies better accountable."

BUDGET PROMISE

Women miss the free ride bus

Scheme was estimated to benefit 30 lakh working women in poll-bound state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai's had announced free travel on BMTC buses for women working in organised sector. However, it has remained on paper.

Bommai, in his budget speech, has said that Rs 1,000 crore will be allocated towards providing free bus passes to women working in the organised sector. The scheme was estimated to benefit around 30 lakh women.

After the budget, Bommai directed the BMTC to take steps to issue free passes to women soon so that they can travel for free from April 1. However, the significant scheme ahead of the polls is yet to be implemented.

"Every day, I travel from my home in Chamarajpet to my office in Koramangala. When the free bus pass was announced, I was excited because women like me have to spend a huge chunk of our earnings in conveyance. The free bus pass would have helped me and others like me make substantial savings. However, there is no clarity on where to apply for the passes and what is the procedure," said a woman working in a private company.

Earlier, when the BMTC offered free travel for all women on International Women's Day on March 8, it received an overwhelming response. According to BMTC data, 21.97 lakh women availed the offer of free travel. The numbers exceeded BMTC's expectation of 20 lakh. The total cost incurred by the government for the free travel was estimated to be over Rs 8 crore.

BMTC MD Sathyavathi did not respond to questions on the status of the scheme. However, an official from BMTC maintained that the passes may be issued only after the elections are over.

First-timers: College students visit camps in hordes to get voter cards

NAMRATA SINDWANI @Bengaluru

COLLEGE freshers actively participate in large numbers and applied for ID cards at the registration camps organised at colleges in March, after it was suggested by the Election Commission as a measure to motivate first-time voters.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had set up camps in various universities to motivate those who have become eligible to exercise their franchise for the first time, come forward, and submit their details for voter ID cards.

Atika Zainab, a first-year student from Jain University, said that she has applied for her voter ID.

The camp at the university in March also saw a good response, where many students came and registered for to get their cards.

Ragini Ayyanna (21), a student of masters in Computer Application (MCA), said, "I got my voter ID card during the pandemic and will be voting for the first time in the upcoming Assembly election. Voting is our right and we must exercise our franchise."

Asked on what parameters she decides who should get her vote, she said it depends on the candidate and not the party the candidate is affiliated to.

The associations have also been urging students, especially first-time voters, to demand that basic amenities are provided.

Aratrika from All India Students Association (AISA) demanded that government should withdraw the New Education Policy (NEP) as it promotes privatisation of education.

She also demanded that facilities be improved for the Backward Classes and Minorities students in hostels as they are allegedly ill-treated, made to clean toilets and even given poor quality food. Students' stipend amount for research should also be increased, she said.

Arjun Chopra, a third-year student of Garden University, said that many of his classmates have been registering online or through camps for their voter ID cards. He said that there are many students who are politically aware but are disinclined towards voting in general. It is important that students become more conscious and understand that a person can only question the government when they vote, he added.

Police check a vehicle at a checkpost to curb violation of the model code of conduct in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

> I got my voter ID card during the pandemic and will be voting for the first time in the upcoming Assembly election. Voting is our right and we must exercise our franchise
>
> Ragini Ayyanna, student

Control rooms set up for MCC violation plaints

With the Model Code of Conduct in force since March 29, the Election Commission has directed returning officers to set up control rooms in all constituencies to increase vigilance against violation of the code. A person can call the helpline numbers 080-28604331 and 080-28600954 in case of any violations, and can even register online complaints via the cVigil mobile application.

CUTE FEAST

A baby holds a cross to celebrate Palm Sunday at St Andrew's Church in Bengaluru | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

ALUR BDA RESIDENTS FALL PREY TO 'SCAM', PLAINT FILED

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

SOME residents of BDA's phase-2 housing project in Alur have collectively lost between Rs 5 crore and Rs 6 crore in what looks like a miniature version of IMA ponzi scam.

The incident has also resulted in some hostilities among the residents as some of them had invested in the scheme after being suggested by their neighbours. Kiran Kumar Misro, a resident, is distraught as he and many of his family members have invested. He has filed a complaint with the CCB and will be filing an FIR with the Rajaji Nagar police station on Monday.

The kingpins of the scam –Jojipaul and Ashok Vitalwadi –who allegedly duped people through their wealth management company set up in 2019, Sanjose Wealth Management Pvt Ltd, were arrested last month, blowing the lid off the scam.

Many residents who are devastated, insist that action be taken against those residing in the BDA complex who encouraged them to invest.

A resident said, "The company promised an interest rate of 10% with payout every 35 days from the date of deposit. When they started making the payments for a few months to some who had invested, many 3 BHK and 2 BHK residents also invested. After some time, the payouts stopped."

Misro told TNIE, "From March 28, 2021 to January 18, 2022, eight members of our family have invested around Rs 55 lakh." In his complaint he has named Vasanth Kumar and Naga Jyothi, her brother-in-law Raghavendra Hebbal and their "old friends" Vitalwadi and Jojipaul of hatching a plan to dupe others in the BDA layout.

A couple of the victims believe that four named in the complaint are also victims themselves. "They got good returns and shared it with us. So, we also invested," a victim claimed.

Vasanth Kumar denied the allegations, and claimed, "Misro and I have some personal enmity over having cats as his daughter is allergic to them. We had a major fight. He is trying to malign me."

Writer: Quota move will hit education of Muslim girls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

WRITERS, lawyers and academics hit out at the government after its decision to scrap reservation for Muslims under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.

During an event organised by the All India Students' Association (AISA), the participants highlighted how the decision will impact the community, especially Muslim girls, who have been struggling to get a good education. "Muslim girls are fighting against all odds for education, and are working hard to become bureaucrats and pursuing various options as careers. After the reservation is scrapped, and they are brought under the EWS category, it is equivalent to fettering their education opportunities," said writer Dr K Sharifa.

National president of All India Lawyers' Association for Justice (AILAJ), Maitreyi Krishnan called the decision an "attack" on the Constitution. "This move will exacerbate inequality and vulnerability of the minorities and the oppressed," she said, adding that the government has distorted the reservation policy.

The decision to give Muslims reservation was taken after scientific evaluations and based on the recommendations of the Havanur Commission report, Chinnappa Reddy report and the Sachar Committee report.

They also criticised the National Education Policy (NEP) for allegedly being repressive towards the minorities. "The recent actions of the government subverts social justice, and continues to be exclusionary by slashing scholarships of PhD students from the minority community in Karnataka and suspending Maulana Azad National Fellowship at the Centre to marginalise the Backward Classes and deny them access to equal and quality education," said Syed Junaid, a member of AISA.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

03RD April : Gemini is my sign of the day. As it happens this is a sign of lovers in the broadest sense. It favours people who are in love with ideas, places and dreams as well as with other people. The flipside, of course, is that they don't often show it! Never mind. It leaves the rest of us to get on with real life.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
One of your major skills is your ability to understand the broader picture, but today you should swing to the opposite extreme and examine every single detail, otherwise you're liable to overlook something vital. Perhaps a partner can show you the way forward.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Make sure you have an enjoyable day. The Moon's position suggests that what oriental sages have been saying for centuries is true: even routine and humdrum activities can be satisfying if accomplished with the right attitude. Go on - try it!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Domestic and family responsibilities are likely to be most pressing today. Even if you're at work, the best way to complete all your responsibilities will be to generate a family atmosphere. If everyone knows their place, they'll do the best job.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Good communication seems to be awfully important, and you'll have to realise that if you don't attend to all practical complexities yourself, others are likely to step in - and get it all wrong. Take the responsibility for putting your own plans into action.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Current discussions over finances are likely to be linked to past emotional dramas, in which case it may be difficult to see the way forward. Don't act free and easy with other people's cash, by the way, because they're bound to notice sooner or later!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The Moon is happily ensconced in a friendly region of your chart today, so you should be able to take life as you find it. You'll be slightly more emotional than usual, and this means that you may be more compassionate to others' suffering, but also more likely to take offence.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Keep yourself to yourself if that is what you want. You may have to put on a performance in public, but what is truly important is what's happening in your subconscious. The decisions you take now will shape your affairs over the next four weeks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Powerful social planets suggest that now is the time for teamwork and co-operation. Don't try to go it alone for, if you do, you'll run the risk of shooting yourself in the foot. Make the most of children's enthusiasm, and do what you can to shape their energies positively.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
It's time to be ambitious, and not to be ashamed about it! It's no over-statement to say that even apparently trivial developments over the coming days and weeks could change your career direction for good, so there's no room at all for complacency.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
If you still feel confused, hurt or angry, it's because recent traumas are still being stirred up by other people. However, over the next few weeks, you will gradually understand that what has happened has been for the best. It's just that it might not have been what you were expecting.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You may try to distance yourself from any colleagues who make you feel upset or angry, and concentrate on important things like boosting your income, and setting yourself up for future prosperity. It's time to look after number one - and, when you've taken care of yourself, you can think about others.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You may decide once and for all where you would be happiest and who you'd rather be with. Only then will you be able to concentrate your energies, maximise your advantages and make life better for you and your loved ones. And if a change of job is called for, then so be it!

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

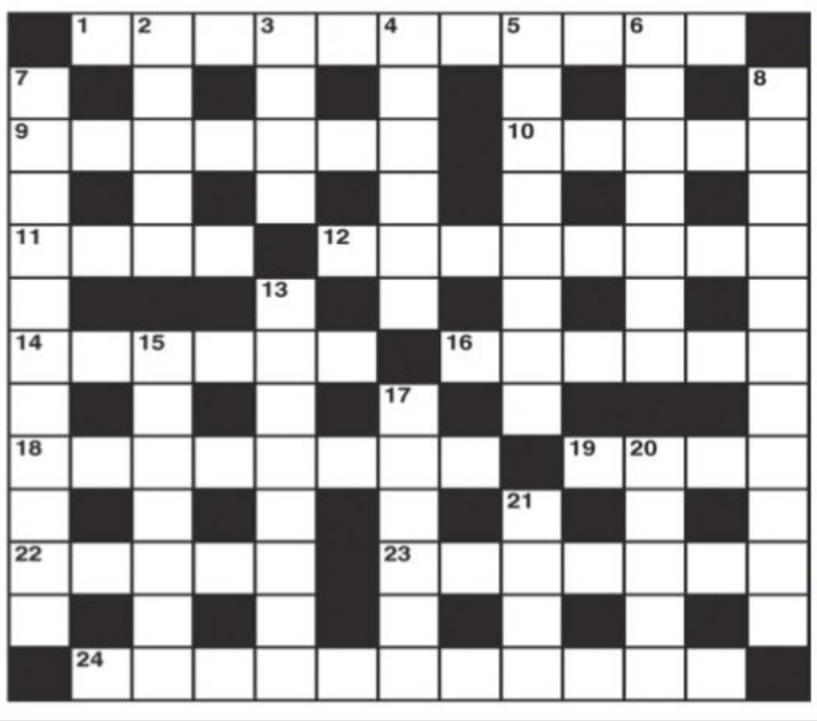
	4		3		6			
7	8		1		2			6
				4	5		2	8
4		1				3		
5				1				4
		7				5		1
1	2		6	7				
8			5		1		9	3
			8		4		1	

2	1	8	6	5	4	7	3	9
7	5	6	9	8	3	1	2	4
4	9	3	2	1	7	8	6	5
5	3	4	1	2	9	6	7	8
9	2	1	7	6	8	4	5	3
6	8	7	3	4	5	9	1	2
3	6	2	8	9	1	5	4	7
8	7	5	4	3	6	2	9	1
1	4	9	5	7	2	3	8	6

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Capacity of certain chaps in the new team (11)
9 Bright star in spiral ring complex (7)
10 It has changed states in an old-fashioned way (5)
11 Don't lie under it (4)
12 It's twice as expensive. What a pity! (4,4)
14 Arrested outlaw sent back to bed (6)
16 Hibernating snake wrapped around shelter (6)
18 Defamed a large number and got into a row (8)
19 Slip across the road (4)
22 Loop line soon turns East (5)
23 Sister diverted with love romances (7)
24 Bent on submission (2,4,5)

DOWN
2 Excited Celt describing a conspicuous success (5)
3 One among the lesser folk in feudal times (4)
4 Didn't push on against desert storm? (6)
5 I'm upset by the strain of being a teacher (8)
6 I have innate artlessness (7)
7 A candidate who doesn't keep it may not get it (11)
8 Professional man who goes to work on foot (11)
13 A watercolour? (3,5)
15 It may go up - everybody's in favour (7)
17 People count (6)
20 Jack may get this to fold up (5)
21 Grain of discomfort (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Subdue, 4 Offender, 9 Red rag, 10 Mentally, 12 Inns, 13 Gross, 14 Stye, 17 Highly strung, 20 Assignations, 23 Adam, 24 Agile, 25 Game, 28 Servitor, 29 Chains, 30 Nota bene, 31 Oyster.

Down: 1 Straight, 2 Badinage, 3 Upas, 5 Feel strongly, 6 Eats, 7 Dilute, 8 Rhymes, 11 Dressing down, 15 Close, 16 Unity, 18 Moralist, 19 Assessor, 21 Raisin, 22 Garret, 26 Limb, 27 Whey.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

RWNAD

PUERP

RSMEIY

ZAALBE

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: " ( ) - ( ) - ( ) "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CRUSH ABOVE DISMAY BUTANE
Answer: The people who purchased coffee on the train platform were — "BUY" STANDERS

A team led by Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Kuldeep Kumar R Jain carried out a surprise search operation at Mangaluru district prison on Sunday and seized cigarettes and other tobacco products

The value of the siezed ganga is Rs 25.5 lakh, say officials | EXPRESS

Ganja smuggled in trolley bags seized at rly stn

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

TWO persons were caught redhanded at Kalaburagi railway station in their attempt to smuggle 34kg of ganja in trolley bags. The value of the siezed ganga is Rs 25.5 lakh, said an official release.

Following a tip off on smuggling of ganja on board the Hussain Sagar Express, the Government Railway Police and the Railway Protection Force conducted a joint operation on March 28 and nabbeed the accused on Platform 2 and 3.

They hailed from Maharashtra and Telangana respectively and a case has been registered under NDPS Act. Legal action is being pursued against them.

7 yrs on, accused in IM funding case acquitted

On May 20, 2016, NIA charged Siddibapa with funding IM after he was deported from UAE

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @ Karwar

DELHI'S Patiala House court has acquitted **Abdul Wahid Siddibapa** of Bhatkal, who was arrested by NIA on charges of financially aiding Indian Mujahideen and plotting bomb blasts since 2007.

On May 20, 2016, NIA charged Siddibapa with funding IM after he was deported from the UAE, his counsel MS Khan said. "He was also accused of funding the organisation when he was in Dubai. NIA claimed he had transferred money to the banned outfit through various sources."

The transaction of money was challenged in the court. "The NIA could not establish the link of money sent through various sources, and we proved that the small amount of money sent via hawala was to his wife. Since the matter was not established by the NIA, Siddibapa was released," explained Khan. He said even the arrest was made based on a conversation between two accused. Besides, there was an attempt to link him to other cases in Hyderabad and Mumbai. Since he has already been booked and the matter has been resolved, he cannot be detained any longer, and the court ordered his release, he told TNIE. Siddibapa will be released from prison on Monday after seven years.

During investigation, Siddibapa's role was said to be that of a channeliser of funds received from IM operatives in Pakistan, via Dubai, for use by IM operatives based in India for conducting terror activities, the chargesheet said. It added that the money was also regularly sent to IM operatives lodged in jails and their families besides its absconding activists.

THREE CHEERS...

CM Basavaraj Bommai and ministers R Ashoka and Dr K Sudhakar take a break from campaigning to enjoy the IPL match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Sunday | VINOD KUMAR T

Stolen gold worth ₹5 lakh recovered from train

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT Railway Police (GRP) on Friday, March 31, recovered 100 grams of gold ornaments, valued at around Rs 5 lakh, stolen from the bag of a woman passenger, on board the Secunderabad-Belagavi Express. The victim is lucky to get her jewellery as she had lost them three weeks ago.

The theft occurred on March 10 in the Belagavi Express between 1am and 1.20am.

An official release said that the accused hailed from Chittapur Taluk in Kalaaburgi district. A case has been registered against him.

M Pasha, Sub Inspector of Wadi railway police station, along with the crime team facilitated the recovery.

Special court raps Lokayukta police for 'shabby' probe

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

PINPOINTING to a series of loopholes by Lokayukta police, and lack of accountability by revenue department officials, a Special Court acquitted the accused persons who were charged with swindling Rs 3.72 crore by availing compensation from the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) for six acres of land. The parcel of land was vested with the government at Arebhinnamangala village, Bengaluru North taluk, in 2013.

Pointing to the mystery shrouding the missing original compensation file from the tahsildar's office, Judge SV Srikanth said this type of hanky-panky clearly shows how revenue department officials are working, by throwing rules and regulations to the wind. Even to date, most of the original documents are unavailable, which signals that proper periodical inspections and assessment of public servants is not taking place. If this tendency continues, there is no purpose in maintaining the revenue department, the judge said.

Noting that the kind of loopholes found in this case only shows that officers with administrative power are silent and have failed to initiate proper action under civil service rules, the court said the public will lose faith in government offices, and hence, they must be dealt with an iron hand.

The court made these scathing remarks while acquitting N R Nagaraju, then Special Land Acquisition Officer, Dhanalakshmi, tahsildar, BN Narasimhaiah, village accountant, Alla Bakshu, retired land surveyor, BBMP, Sampath, and abating the case against BL Hanumantharaju, retired Assistant Professor, University of Agriculture and BH Shashikumar, since they died during the trial.

> It can be certainly said that all was not well in the State of Rome and was an easy cakewalk for all the accused. Investigation is incomplete and one-sided, which was done only for statistical purposes
>
> Special Court

Observing that the investigation taken up by Lokayukta police is pitiable, with no detailed investigation into tampering of Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board records, the court said it is not only shabby but also sets a bad precedent as there were some grey areas into which investigating officers should have held a detailed lawful investigation.

Going through the documents produced, the court said, "It can be certainly said that all was not well in the State of Rome and was an easy cakewalk for all the accused. Investigation is incomplete and one-sided, which was done only for statistical purposes. No investigation can take place at the whims and fancies of any investigating officer."

Lorry hits 2-wheeler, kills woman, injures mother

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 29-year-old woman was killed on the spot while her mother was critically injured after a lorry knocked down the two-wheeler they were traveling in on Mysuru Road on Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Anusha, a resident of Attiguppe who was working in a plywood shop.

Her mother Vanajakshi (50) was seriously injured as the lorry ran over her legs while Anusha's seven-year-old son Aryan escaped with minor injuries.

The police said the trio was going to a mall on Mysuru Road for shopping when a speeding lorry hit their scooter while joining the main road, near Pantarapalya bus stop.

Anusha died on spot as the lorry ran over her head.

The lorry also hit a BMTC bus before coming to a halt. Fearing public wrath, the lorry driver abandoned the vehicle and fled the scene while passersby made a futile attempt to catch him.

Irked by the accident, the local residents pelted stones at the lorry and staged a protest blocking the busy road, demanding to prohibit the movement of heavy vehicles.

Meanwhile, traffic was forced to a standstill for over 30 minutes and the police had to resort to a mild lathi charge to disperse the crowd.

A case is registered at Byatarayanapura traffic police station.

Angry residents threw stones at the lorry involved in the accident | EXPRESS

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT ANEKAL
O. S. No. 437 /2022

BETWEEN: Smt. Sowmya .H.S and others ...PLAINTIFFS

AND: Sri. Shankarappa and others... DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS/ NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS

9. Sri. Fairoz Pasha, S/o A. Chand Pasha, aged about 44 Years, R/at No: 6, Nazir Sab Layout, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560068. **10. Sri. Ram Mohan**, S/o M. Narayana Bhat, aged about 49 Years, R/at No: Anugraha Pothodu House, P.O. Madhav, Puttur-574318. **11. Sri. Mohammed Ghouse**, S/o late M. Basha Sab, aged about 43 years, R/at Hosur Main Road, Opp. Hotel Shanthi Sagar, Madivala, Bengaluru-560068. **14. Sri. Nazeer Ahmed** , S/o Mohammed Shariff, aged about 56 years, R/at No. 22, Lalbheg Road, 4th Cross, K. S. Garden, Bengaluru-560027. **17. Smt. Najma Tabassum**, W/o Faiyaz Pasha, aged about 50 years, R/at No. 27, 8th 'A' Main, New Gurrappanapalya, Bengaluru-560029. **20. Smt. Sultana,** W/o Nooruddin, aged about 43 Years, R/at No. 30/1A, 2nd Main, Rotary Nagar, Kodichikkanahalli, Opp water tank, Bengaluru-560076. **21. Sri. Ahraf Ali**, S/o M. Mohammed Basha, aged about 42 years, R/at Opp. Madrase Gaisul Huda, Shikaripalya, Hulimangala Post, Bengaluru- 560105. **22. Sri. Syed Naveed**, S/o Syed Rahmathulla, aged about 38 years, R/at No. 299, Shikaripalya, Hulimangala Post, Bengaluru- 560105. **23. Smt. Musarath Unnisa,** W/o late Abdul Khaliq, aged about 57 years, R/at No. 104, RMS Heights Apartment, 1st Cross, Beside South City Compound, Lakshmi Layout, Bengaluru-560076. **27. Mrs. Hafeeza Delvi,** W/o Nadeem Ahmed Delvi, aged about 38 years, R/at No. 41/2, Bannerghatta Road Cross, 2nd Main, Behind Fire Brigade Station, BHEL Layout, Jayanagara, Bengaluru-560041. **28. Sri. Shaik Muzibulli Rehman,** S/o Shaik Nihamath Ali, aged about 47 years, R/at Shikaripalya Village, Hulimangala Post, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560105. **29. Sri. M.D Tanweer Alam,** S/o Sanower Ali, aged about 42 years, R/at Shikaripalya Village, Hulimangala Post, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560105. **32. Sri. Riyas .M**, S/o Soopi Haji, aged about 40 years. R/at No. 5/2, 2nd Floor, Pape Gowda Street, AT Halli, Shanthi Nagar, Bengaluru-560027. **35. Sri. Syed Sajjad Hussainee**, S/o Syed Ahmed Hussainee, aged about 66 years, R/at No. 11/1, South Cross Street, Banian Basha Street, Neelasandra, Bengaluru-560047. **37. Sri. Qayamuddin. K. Shaikh,** S/o Kharuddin Shaikh, aged about 50 years, R/at Prakash Reddy Road, Vinayaka Nagar, Hulimangala Post, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560105. **38. Smt. Nazama Qayamuddin Shaikh**, W/o Qayamuddin. K. Shaikh, aged about 48 years, R/at Prakash Reddy Road, Vinayaka Nagar, Hulimangala Post, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560105. **40. Sri. Syed Shabeer**, S/o late Syed Gayasuddin, Aged about 43 years, R/at No. 1, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, M. P. Street, Motinagar, Behind Old BTS Timber, Kalasipalya, Bengaluru-560002. **42. Smt. Sowmya. K**, W/o B M Krishna Murthy, aged about 33 years, R/at No. 730/2, Krishna Murthy Building, Near Varun Bakery, Gollahalli Main Road, Hebbagodi, Bommasandra Post, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099. **47. Sri. Abdul Muheeb**, S/o Abdul Jaleel, aged about 37 years, R/at No. 5/1, 7th Cross, H. Siddiah Road, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru- 560027. **48. Smt. Suhaina. S. K,** W/o Abdul Muheeb, Aged about 32 years, R/at No. 5/1, 7th Cross, H. Siddiah Road, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru-560027.

NOTICE

Whereas the plaintiffs above named has filed a suit for partition in the joint family property against the defendants, please notice that the above case was posted **13-07-2023** and you are hereby notified /summoned to appear in person or through counsel duly authorized and instructed on **13-07-2023** at 11.00 A.M. in the Court of the PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT, AT ANEKAL, failing which the matter will be heard and decided. Take notice that in default of your appearance on that day and time above mentioned the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy. No: 280 measuring 2 acre 02 guntas situated at Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district and Bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Ravappa Land, **North by:** Kenchamma Land, **South by :** Munireddy Land.

By order of the court issued on the 30-03-2023.

By order of the court, Chief Ministerial officer, Senior civil judge & JMFC Court, Anekal.

ANIL KUMAR .V, Advocate
No.80/2, Venkataramaiah road, (ECC Road), Pattandur Agrahara, whitefiled post, Bengaluru-560066.

Petronet LNG Limited

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT FOR HIRING OF TEMPO TRAVELER TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR 2 YEARS AT PETRONET LNG LTD, KOCHI

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites bids from experienced and financially sound contractors for Annual Rate contract for Hiring Tempo Traveler Transport Services for a Period of Two Years at PETRONET LNG LTD, KOCHI (Kerala).

Interested parties are requested to visit our website **www.petronetlng.in** for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and/or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion.

No separate notification w.r.t. this tender shall be issued in press. Interested parties to regularly visit aforesaid PLL website for any updates.

General Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
Survey No.-347 (PSEZ), Puthuvype P.O, Kochi - 682508, Kerala, India.
Tel. No.- 0484-2757701/2, Email:- debajyotisatpathy@petronetlng.in; cnp_kochi@petronetlng.in

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

PALGHAT DIVISION
E-Tender Notice No. PGT/OT/07/2023 dated: 28.03.2023

For and on behalf of The Present of India, the Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.No.	Name of work
1	Proposed collection and training out of 50 mm machine crushed hard stone ballast at Madukkarai Depot. Approximate Cash value (in lakhs) -323.80, Bid Security Amount Rs. 3,11,900/- Completion Period in Months- Eight.
2	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Shoranur sub division: Proposed Overhauling and maintenance of Lifting Barrier gates for a period of 2 years -23 nos of LCs. Approximate cash value (in lakhs)-138.77, Bid Security Amount :Rs. 2,19,400/- Completion Period in Months- Twenty Four.
3	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Palakkad sub division: Proposed Overhauling and maintenance of Lifting Barrier gates for a period of 2 years -33 nos of Lcs. Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-199.10, Bid Security Amount in Rs. 2,49,600/- Completion Period in Months -Twenty Four.
4	Repairs to Foot Over bridges at stations in Senior Section Engineer/Works/Mangalore section. Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-68.59, Bid Security Amount in Rs. 1,37,200/-, Completion Period in Months-Six.
5	Divisional Engineer/East/Palakkad Jurisdiction- Provision for new PF shelters, passenger amenities like pay and use toilet, water cistern, benches, etc at 18 stations. Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-174.30, Bid Security Amount in Rs.2,37,200/-, Completion Period in Months- Twelve.
6	Podanur-Shoranur section- Reconstruction of existing Road Under Bridge No.528 at Km 495/900-496/100 in between Madukkarai and Palakkad stations- Bridge proper & Height Gauuge-Phase -II. Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-1125.03, Bid Security Amount in Rs. 7,12,500/- Completion Period in Months- Twelve.
7	Palakkad Division: Proposed Supply of welding portions with all accessories approved by RDSO for fusion welding. Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-144.76, Bid Security Amount in Rs. 2,22,400/-. Completion Period in Months- Twelve.
8	Kasargode- Mangalore section: Through bridge sleeper renewal on girder bridges with H beam sleepers (List of bridges are enclosed as annexure). Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-612.28, Bid Security Amount in Rs. 4,56,200/-. Completion Period in Months- Ten.
9	Kannur-Kasargode section: Through bridge sleeper renewal on girder bridges with H beam sleepers (List of bridges are enclosed as annexure). Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)- 921.98, Bid Security Amount in Rs. 6,11,000/-, Completion Period in Months- Eighteen.
10	Calicut-Kannur section: Through bridge sleeper renewal on girder bridges with H beam sleepers (List of bridges are enclosed as annexure). Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)- 528.08, Bid Security Amount in Rs. 4,14,000/-, Completion Period in Months- Ten.
11	Complete scraping & painting of Girder bridges due for the year 2022-2023 in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Palakkad &Shoranur sub divisions. (Details of bridges as per annexure). Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-39.61, Bid Security Amount in Rs. 79,200/-, Completion Period in Months- Twelve.
12	Divisional Engineer/East/Palakkad jurisdiction: Through bridge sleepers renewal on girder bridges with H beam sleepers for Br.No.713 at KM 566/700-800 (Dn line) and Br.No.925 at Km 649/600-649/800(Dn Line). Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-140.90, Bid Security Amount in Rs. 2,20,500/-, Completion Period in Months- Twelve.
13	Divisional Engineer/West/Palakkad Jurisdiction-Provision for new Platform Shelters, Passenger amenities like waiting hall, water cistern, urinals etc at 18 stations. Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-91.38, Bid Security Amount in Rs. 1,82,800/-, Completion Period in Months- Ten.
14	Under-water Inspection (Swim by) of substructure of different major Bridges in Palakkad Division for the year 2022-2023 (Details of Bridges as per annexure). Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-24.71, Bid Security Amount in Rs. 49,400/-, Completion Period in Months- Six.
15	Kallayi-Provision of full length unloading platform and modification to goods unloading lines at Kallayi station. Approximate Cash value (in lakhs)-837.07, Bid Security Amount in Rs. 5,68,500/-, Completion Period in Months- Eighteen.

Sl. No. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 : Tender closing date on 24.04.2023 at 15hrs.
Sl. No. 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 : Tender closing date on 02.05.2023 at 15 hrs.
Sl. No. 11 : Tender closing date on 10.05.2023 at 15 hrs.

1. **All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.**
2. **Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards.**

For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site **"http://www.ireps.gov.in."**

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage properties in the below mentioned accounts for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 30.03.2023	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last date TIME & Place for submission of Bid
1	45349427322090	1) Mr. Mahendra P, 2) Mr. Nivetha S, 3) Mrs. Uma Devi P	17-11-2022	24-03-2023	Rs.26,14,579/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Nine Only)	18.04.2023 Time 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.21,51,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Fifty One Thousand Only)	Rs.2,15,100/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifteen Thousand One Hundred Only)	05.05.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	04.05.2023 Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.
	Details of Secured Assets: Residential Apartment/ Flat No.GF 002, Present BBMP No.816/498/ GF 002 on Ground Floor in the apartment Building known as "Ujwala Apartments" being constructed in the property described in Schedule A Property here with built-up area of 640 square feet with jungle wood windows and mosaic flooring with one covered car parking space in the basement Presently the property is within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike Ward No.186. Jaraganahalli, Bangalore. **East by:** Road, **West by:** Private Propertv, **North by:** Property bearing No.18, **South by:** Property bearing No.16. Measuring East to West: 70 ft. and North to South: 40 ft.									
2	30198640002186	1) M/s. Durga Constructions Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Kiran Kumar, 2) Mr. Kiran Kumar Proprietor M/s. Durga Constructions, 3) Mrs. Nivedhitha Kiran Kumar	17-01-2022	28-03-2023	Rs.61,62,358/- (Rupees Sixty One Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Eight Only)	18.04.2023 Time 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs. 2,02,30,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Two Lakh Thirty Thousand Only)	Rs. 20,23,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Only)	05.05.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	04.05.2023 Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the property House bearing Sy.No.217/1, Measuring 27 Guntas includes 3 Guntas Kharab Land Situated at Hullahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and together **Bounded on: East by:** Sy.No.217/2, **West by:** Sy.No.218, **North by:** Sy.No.216, **South by:** Sy.No.219.									
3	30199660000506 & 30198640002006	1) M/s. Sri Vinayaka Textiles Prints Represented by its Partners Sri Nagaraj M., Sri Madhu B.M., Sri Puttaraju B.N., 2) Mr. Nagaraj M., 3) Mr. Madhu. B.M., 4) Mr. Puttaraju B.N.	09-07-2022	10-12-2022	Rs.49,18,557/- (Rupees Forty Nine Lakh Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Seven Only)	18.04.2023 Time 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.72,02,000/- (Rupees Seventy Two Lakh Two Thousand Only)	Rs.7,20,200/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Thousand Two Hundred Only)	05.05.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	04.05.2023 Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing House List No.23, New Katha No.625, Old Katha No.295/2, Situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Comes under the Jurisdiction of BBMP Limits, Measuring East to West: 28ft and North to South: 40 ft in all Measuring 1120 Sq.ft and together and **Bounded on the: East by:** Property No.24, **West by:** Property No.22, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property No.36.									
4	30198643873181	1) M/s. Maruthi Fabtech Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Lokesh S., 2) Mr. Lokesh S. (Mortgager), M/s. Maruthi Fabtech Proprietor, 3) Mrs. Manimegala (Gaurantor)	17-10-2022	04-02-2023	Rs.79,81,374/- (Rupees Seventy Nine Lakh Eighty One Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Four Only)	18.04.2023 Time 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.61,20,000/- (Rupees Sixty One Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs.6,12,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Twelve Thousand Only)	05.05.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	04.05.2023 Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and Parcel of Residential House bearing No.67B-25/1, with, Katha/PID No.3549/3237/67/B/25/1 Valegarahalli Village, Kengerihobli, Bangalore South Taluk (Old Kengeripurasabha Katha No.3237) Measuring East to West 30 ft. and North to South 30 Ft., in all measuring 900 sq. **Bounded by: East by:** By Road, **West by:** Property belongs to Kalegowda, **North by:** Property belongs to Anand, **South by:** Property belongs to Gurappa.									
5	45348640000880 & 45349660001521	1) M/s. Altitudez Designs and Construction Rep. by its Prop. Mr. Syed Umar, 2) Mrs. Syed Umar, 3) Mr. Syed Ghouse	08-08-2021	07-07-2022	Rs.69,63,948/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Eight Only)	11.04.2023 Time 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.97,06,000/- (Rupees Ninety Seven Lakh Six Thousand Only)	Rs.9,70,600/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Seventy Thousand Six Hundred Only)	20.04.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	19.04.2023 Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing municipal No.75 situated at 4th Main Road Guruppanpalaya Bangalore PID No.64-10-75, presently coming under the administrative Jurisdiction of BBMP measuring East to West 22 feet and North to South 50 feet totally measuring 1100 sq.ft and **Bounded on the: West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property No.6, **East by:** Private Property.									
6	32519440000090 & 32519670000140	1) Mrs. Ammaiah J, 2) Mr. Jayanna C, 3) Ammaiah Pro. Uma Fashions	10-06-2022	24-02-2023	Rs.11,75,730/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Only)	11.04.2023 Time 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.11,52,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Only)	Rs.1,15,200/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Only)	20.04.2023 Time: 02:00 PM to 03.00 PM	19.04.2023 Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and Parcel of bearing the Site No.237, House No.1330/2, Situated at Muneswarswamy Temple Street, Reddypalya, Vibhuthipura Dhakle, Krishnarajpura, Hobali, Bangalore East Taluk, Now Comes Under the BBMP Limits. **Bounded on the: East by:** Road, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property belongs to Venkataiah, **South by:** Road. **Measuring:** East to West 25 Feet, North to South 16 Feet.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. Bhaskar Naidu Contact Number: 8142000809/ 8142000061. Email id: info@bankauctions.in / subbarao@bankauctions.in.**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Raghottama A. V. (9916382123)** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 03.04.2023, Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

No political party can form the new government without the support of Kalyana Rajya Pragati Paksha, former minister and party president Gali Janardhna Reddy has said. Addressing a party rally in Channarayapatna town here on Sunday, Reddy said KRPP is fielding candidates in 50 constituencies and expecting victory in over 30 seats

Crucial Cong CEC meet tomorrow

Party yet to decide candidates for 100 seats; Suspense over Siddu's second seat continues

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

THE Congress Central Election Committee (CEC) that meets in New Delhi on Tuesday is likely to release the party's second list of candidates for the May 10 Karnataka Assembly polls ahead of former All-India Congress Committee (AICC) president Rahul Gandhi's visit to Kolar on April 9. State Congress leaders are expected to camp in Delhi from Monday evening itself to get a ticket for themselves or for their aides.

The Congress has already released the names of 124 candidates, including Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah who will fight from Varuna.

The issue of Siddaramaiah contesting from a second seat — Kolar — and candidates for key seats, including Channapatna where there are rumours of former minister CP Yogeshwar quitting BJP to Congress, will be discussed at the meeting, informed sources told *The New Indian Express*.

The party is likely to decide on its candidates for KR Pet, Yeshwantpur and KR Puram segments. The Congress has kept these seats vacant expecting that ministers KC Narayana Gowda, ST Somashekar and Byrathi Basavaraj will join the party ahead of the polls. "I will not talk about it... let their party decide," KPCC president DK Shivakumar said when asked about some ministers from the Bommai Cabinet joining the Congress. On chances of Siddaramaiah being fielded from two seats, Shivakumar said the high command will take a call. He reiterated that despite many ticket aspirants, there was no confusion in the party.

"There is internal bickering in the BJP. That is the reason for them not releasing their candidate list. JDS too has a similar problem as many of its leaders have joined the Congress. The people will reject the BJP in the May 10 election," he said.

Congress leaders HC Mahadevappa, Siddaramaiah, Tanveer Sait and others during a protest in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR S

According to sources, the Congress has finalised the second list except for 35 seats where there are two aspirants — one from the Siddaramaiah camp and the other from Shivakumar camp. But for the remaining 65 seats, consensus candidates have already been decided.

Will Akhanda contest from Pulikeshi Nagar?

As Pulikeshi Nagar MLA R Akhanda Srinivas Murthy's name did not figure in the Congress' first list, there was speculation about him missing the bus even in the second list.

Following which his sympathisers, including former ministers Krishna Byregowda, Zameer Ahmed Khan and Dinesh Gundurao and Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad, called on Siddaramaiah along with Akhanda on Sunday. Akhanda Srinivas Murthy's name was not announced in the first as minorities had expressed concern over his candidature after the 2020 DJ Halli riots, sources added.

₹18L SEIZED FROM CAR IN VARUNA

Mysuru: Election officials on Sunday seized unaccounted cash of Rs 18 lakh from a car at a checkpost on Mysuru-T Narasipura highway coming under Varuna Assembly segment. According to officials, the person who was transporting the cash in the car failed to produce relevant documents to the authorities. As it was suspected that the amount will be used for wooing the voters, the checkpost officials seized the cash. The authorities are investigating to ascertain to whom the amount belongs to and where it was being transported. The Election Commision has set up checkposts in 45 places in the district. **ENS**

SEA OF DEVOTEES

Thousands witness the Srikanteshwara Swamy Pancha Maharathotsava at Nanjangud on Sunday | | UDAYSHANKAR S

JDS KEEPS BJP & CONG ON THEIR TOES

LAST week former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy made a startling revelation. The Janata Dal (Secular) leader claimed that some BJP and Congress leaders contacted him, but he is not inclined to join hands with anyone and is confident of getting a full majority to form the next government in the state.

Whether the JDS gets a majority or if the national parties will again knock at its leaders' door to form an alliance will be known on May 13 when the results of the assembly elections will be announced.

But, for now, the national parties that are fighting the 2023 assembly polls with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections cannot afford to ignore the regional party, as they give a final touch-up to their campaign strategies and finalize their candidates. In some segments, JDS will offer a viable platform to leaders who fail to get tickets in the national parties.

Nearly 30 years after the party got a full majority under Deve Gowda's leadership in 1994, the JDS is now fighting for its survival. As its rivals are pulling all stops to strengthen their base in the Old Mysuru region, the regional party is fighting the elections with a new-found enthusiasm. Kumaraswamy seems to be trying hard to keep the morale high. If one goes by the response to his "Pancharatna Yatra", which completed 100 days last week, it looks like the regional party is in the game.

Kumaraswamy, who is the party's CM face, is in full control of the party. He got a headstart in announcing the party programmes and the first list of candidates.

The party is banking on the Gowda family's sway over the dominant Vokkaliga community, goodwill gained among the farming community over Kumaraswamy's decision to waive farm loans, and the "Pancharatna" programmes for education, health, agriculture, housing, and women empowerment. It is also trying to woo minority voters and aggressively take to issues related to Kannada. The JDS leadership also reached out to Telangana and West Bengal Chief Ministers seeking their support and cooperation in the fight against BJP and Congress.

On the flip side, its leaders are deserting the party in droves. Basavaraj Horatti, Chairman of the Legislative Council; A T Ramaswamy, four-time MLA from Arkalgud in Hassan; S R Srinivas, former minister and MLA; YSV Datta, staunch Gowda loyalist for many decades; and many other leaders left the party recently. Some joined Congress and others BJP.

The JDS faces criticism for being a family-centric party. Former Minister HD Revanna's demand for the party ticket to his wife Bhavani Revanna to contest from Hassan brought that debate to the fore. The issue is yet to be resolved, and Kumaraswamy is said to be keen on giving the ticket to a party worker to send a message to the cadre.

Although its leaders talk about winning 123 seats, the party is said to have identified over 80 constituencies with the best chances of winning them. While most of the JDS seats come from South Karnataka, the party is hoping to win some seats in North Karnataka.

For BJP and Congress, the top priority will be to come to power on their strength. If not, the next best strategy will be to keep the rival national party away from power. In the second scenario, the JDS would be the only option for both national parties. At the same time, the BJP and Congress will be wary of the regional party's potential to damage their prospects.

For now, the BJP camp is busy finalizing its candidates, using all resources at its command to overcome anti-incumbency to return to power. Getting the candidates' selection process right will be among the factors that will decide the party prospects at the hustings.

The Congress which peaked a little early is still struggling to finalize its second list of candidates and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's contest from the second seat. In the first list, it is decided that he will contest from the Varuna segment in Mysuru, considered to be a safe seat, but the discussion on Kolar is still on. Former AICC president Rahul Gandhi is expected to visit Kolar on April 9 to launch the party's Jai Bharat campaign. It is not clear if that would have much of an impact as the party depends mostly on its local leaders.

Karnataka's political scenario is slightly different from that of most other states. Here, the BJP grew more at the expense of the anti-Congress parties. But, the regional party that retains its support base in nearly one-third of the state has made the fight difficult for the national parties. In a way, the 2023 assembly results will also be a verdict on the future of the regional party in Karnataka.

Babus worked day and night to clear bills in March, complaint filed

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

ON March 31, as the financial year came to a close, there was a frenzy of activity in government offices, where bills were cleared with lightning speed.

Two public-spirited advocates, S Umapathy and Sudha Katwa, filed a formal complaint with Lokayukta Justice B S Patil on Saturday afternoon, stating that in the last week of March, there was a flurry of activity in government offices across the state, with bills being cleared well beyond working hours and at unearthly hours too.

Terming it the 'March Rush', Sudha Katwa gave a few examples: a bill for Rs 1,04,050 was cleared at 8.39pm on March 29, a bill for Rs 4.59 lakh was cleared at 7.27am, and another for Rs 23 lakh was cleared at 6.10pm on March 30, while a bill for Rs 6.73lakh was cleared at 6.56am on March 31. All these are beyond working hours, and may amount to maladministration, Katwa told the Lokayukta on Saturday.

The suspicion is that these bills were cleared on payment of commission, and must be scrutinised, the lawyers said.

"This is BJP's last attempt to take bribes and commissions, and they have flouted all norms. They have worked in the early morning and late at night to ensure the bills are cleared. This is a sign of their greed," Opposition leader in the Council BK Hariprasad said.

According to BJP leader and former MLC Go Madhusudhan, "This is not something new. It may be wrong to blame anyone because it's been happening since Independence. The custom of passing bills on March 31 has become a practice for many reasons, one of which includes availability of funds. It need not be considered a serious offence."

Lokayukta Justice B S Patil said that he would take up the issue, and asked if he could raid these offices, he hinted at sanctions required to undertake such an exercise.

Former Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde said, "We are all equal before the law, yet it is ironical that where both are offenders — an ordinary citizen who is forced to pay a bribe and a government servant who receives the bribe — sanction is required to prosecute only the public servant. We require a movement to do away with such sanctions."

Transparency activist Venkatesh Nayak, who supported the complaint, said, "All this does not go unnoticed, CAG reports point to these lapses that occur every election year."

This is BJP's last attempt to take bribes and commissions, and they have flouted all norms. They have worked in the early morning and late at night to ensure the bills are cleared

BK Hariprasad, Congress leader

WILL QUOTA POLITICS SPOIL BJP'S PARTY?

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

THE changes made by the Basavaraj Bommai-led State Government to the existing reservation policy at the fag end of its tenure is expected to have a huge impact on the May 10 Karnataka Assembly polls, especially in the 56 constituencies of Kittur Karnataka region, considered the Lingayat heartland.

The region comprises Uttara Kannada, Dharwad, Belagavi, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Haveri, and Gadag districts.

The issue of scrapping the 2B reservation matrix for Muslims and sharing the same between Lingayats and Vokkaligas has put the voters in a dilemma in the region.

Even as the ruling BJP made a desperate attempt to appease Lingayats by extending 2% reservation to them from the scrapped 2B quota, the majority of Lingayat voters across the region are said to be upset with the saffron party for "sidelining" former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, a prominent leader of the community. Yediyurappa, however, has made it clear that he has not been sidelined by the party.

In 2013 polls, the Congress won 34 of the 56 seats in the region and formed the government. In 2018, however, the BJP tasted success in 40 seats, but sat in the Opposition after the JDS and Congress entered into an alliance.

Apart from the issue of reservation, other contentious issues such as the Congress' 40% commission allegation and Lokayukta raid on BJP legislator Madal Virupakshappa could jeopardise the prospects of the BJP, giving an edge to the Grand Old Party in the region. On the other hand, a series of irrigation projects in Kittur Karnataka, including the Mahadayi project which the Bommai government succeeded in getting through, may come as a big boost to the BJP.

However, irrespective of political developments, the BJP is expected to gain an upper hand in Uttar Kannada, Dharwad and Haveri districts where the party currently has 15 seats as against four of the Congress. It is interesting to watch out which way the 37 crucial seats in Belagavi, Bagalkot, Vijayapura and Gadag will swing. Currently, the BJP has 13 seats as against five of Congress in Belagavi and four seats as against two of Congress and one of JDS in Vijayapura. In Bagalkot, the BJP has five seats and the Congress has two. A neck-and-neck clash is expected between Congress and BJP in the aforementioned 37 Assembly segments which hold the key to Vidhana Soudha.

In 2013 polls, the Congress won 34 of the 56 seats in Kittur Karnataka region and formed the government. In 2018, however, the BJP tasted success in 40 seats

While the Congress is trying to corner the Bommai government by highlighting its "weaknesses", the BJP is largely dependent on its star campaigners, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, to bolster its prospects. Modi, who held roadshows back to back in the state in recent times, is expected to hold more campaigns in Kittur Karnataka.

One of the high-stakes clashes in the region is in Shiggaon — the constituency currently represented by Chief Minister Basvaraj Bommai. A clash between two Lingayats is likely as Congress is keen on fielding Vinay Kulkarni, who is being projected as a face of Panchamsali-Lingayats. Interesting, clashes are on the cards in Assembly segments of Vijayapura City, Gokak, Belagavi Rural, Athani, Raibag, Dharwad, Bhatkal, Kalaghatgi, Badami, Gadag, Haveri, Nipani, Saudatti, and Belagavi North.

With both the BJP and Congress fielding Lingayat candidates in many constituencies, the release of candidate lists is being delayed due to the fear of a possible massive split of votes.

The BJP is well placed to take advantage of the favourable demography of the region for a couple of reasons. After the collapse of Janata Dal after the demise of SR Bommai, JH Patel and Ramakrishna Hegde, a host of JD leaders switched to the BJP. This brought stalwarts from the dominant Lingayat community into the BJP fold along with their popular base and their organisational machinery. The rising popularity of Yediyurappa as a Lingayat icon contributed to the BJP's dominance in the region.

In Belagavi district, BJP emerged as a strong force in the last 15 years with politically influential Jarkiholi and Katti families entering its fold from JDS. Once a powerful base for Congress, BJP turned Belagavi into its fort with a solid performance in the last few elections.

Araga must resign, says Siddaramaiah

ENS @ Bengaluru

CONGRESS Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah demanded Home Minister Araga Jnanendra's registration after a man from Mandya was murdered on Friday allegedly by a group of cow vigilantes. The victim, Idrees Pasha, was transporting cattle, when he was allegedly killed by a group of cow vigilantes led by Puneeth Kerehalli.

Condemning the incident, Siddaramaiah said, "BJP is encouraging goonda culture in the state and Araga has no moral rights to remain the home minister."

In a series of tweets, he said, "Incompetent Home Minister Araga Jnanendra is directly responsible for the death. People cannot expect safety and security under this incapable government. He should be first ousted from the cabinet." On social media, Puneeth's photo is reportedly seen with many BJP leaders and ministers. Airing his fears, Siddaramaiah said, "It [the murder] looks like an orchestrated act to flare up communal tension and polarise the electorate."

NOBLE CAUSE

Vote matters: Madamma is Ch'nagar poll ambassador

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

NINETY-TWO-YEAR-old Madamma, who has been honoured with the Rajyotsava award for midwifery and promoting tribal medicine, has been selected as election ambassador of Chamarajanagar district.

Madamma, who hails from the Soliga tribal community, made the headlines when she launched a struggle to get power supply to her Jeerege Doddi village in Hanur taluk recenty.

Her village got power supply after Housing Minister V Somanna took the authorities concerned to task and directed them to start work immediately.

With the district administration making her a poll ambassador, a school teacher and panchayat officials trained Madamma for four hours to record her appeal to voters to exercise their franchise. They later recorded her appeal, "Voting is our right, Voting is good in the interest of the country," in the backyard of her house.

Madamma said many people visited her remote village and felicitated her after she was honoured with the Rajyotsava award.

She said the state government should increase her old age pension so that she can meet her daily needs as her children live separately with their families.

She said that CESCOM officials were reluctant to erect additional electric poles and give power connection to Jeerge Doddi.

Madamma

In the data theft case, where personal information of almost half of the Indian population has been compromised, the Cyberabad police issued notices to 11 organisations allegedly responsible for the leak on Sunday

IT'S 'HOP-SKIP-JUMP' POLITICS IN K'TAKA

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

With Karnataka heading for assembly elections on May 10, party-hopping – politicians switching from one party to another – is reaching its peak. This trend rides on self-interest, to make the most of power politics at the individual level, while ideological moorings, party loyalty and commitment to the people take a backseat.

Getting tickets to contest elections is the foremost goal, with the expectation that the party they plan to jump to would hold the reins of the next government. On their part, political parties look at the 'winnability' factor, while throwing doors wide open to party-hoppers.

Once political parties declare their candidates, things are expected to heat up. The disappointment among those not getting tickets to contest polls will emerge as the factor pushing them to take the jump. Other parties wait for such 'rebels' with the capability to win seats, to join their ranks. The JDS is likely to invite more of them as it does not have a pan-Karnataka base.

Political party bosses feel the motive is to win more seats and form the next government by hook or crook, that fuels the need to absorb turncoats. For instance, K S Kiran Kumar in Chikkanayakanahalli in Tumakuru district, who has strong Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) roots, H Nagesh in Mahadevapura and Puttanna in Rajajinagar in Bengaluru, joined the Congress and have already been declared candidates in the party's first list of 124.

There was harsh criticism of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president DK Shivakumar over keeping some seats vacant just to accommodate newcomers. Former Gubbi MLA SR Srinivas and Arsikere MLA KM Shivalinge Gowda, both from the JDS, were also assured of party tickets.

Some BJP leaders, wary of the rising anti-incumbency against Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and his government, have held several rounds of talks with the KPCC chief on the prospects of jumping to the Congress.

Former MLA UB Banakar in Hirekerur, HD Thammanna in Chikkamagaluru, Mohan Limbikai from Dharwad (all supporters of former CM BS Yediyurappa), Manjunath Kunnur from Shiggaon and NY Gopalakrishna, who resigned as MLA from Kudligi, have joined the Congress.

With rumours floating of Housing Minister V Somanna moving to the Congress, Union Home Minister Amit Shah himself intervened, summoned Somanna to New Delhi and convinced him to stay on. For some senior leaders, party-hopping is an option to groom their children in a party that assures them of tickets. Shah made this promise to Somanna.

In the JDS, Chamundeshwari MLA GT Devegowda, who was ready to quit, was stopped by the party leadership, and was promised that his son would be given the Hunsur ticket.

Bommai has alleged that KPCC chief Shivakumar has been calling BJP leaders to join the Congress, and is keeping certain seats vacant for them. But Shivakumar questioned Bommai's integrity as he heads a government that was formed after 'Operation Lotus', which saw 17 MLAs, including 13 from the Congress, resign to help Yediyurappa form the government in 2019.

But according to Congress manifesto committee vice-president Prof KE Radhakrishna, there will be a "reaction to reaction" when it comes to party-hopping. "Operation Lotus is a mutton shop defection, in which one sells himself," he remarked.

If it is being likened to a mutton shop now, leader of the opposition in the Council BK Hariprasad had earlier kicked off a row by allegedly likening the 17 MLAs to sex workers.

Party-hopping has another face to it. There are instances of parties leaving their leaders in the lurch for various reasons. JDS declared A Manju – who was a minister in the Siddaramaiah-led Congress regime – as Arakalgud candidate, following which JDS MLA AT Ramaswamy, who has a clean image even in the present political scenario, resigned from his post and joined the BJP.

Notably, Manju had contested the Lok Sabha polls in 2019 from Hassan on a BJP ticket and lost to Prajwal Revanna, grandson of former prime minister HD Deve Gowda. He had moved the High Court and Supreme Court, seeking disqualification of Prajwal's election as the latter had allegedly concealed his assets in his affidavit filed before the Election Commission.

Interestingly, Manju's son Manthar Gowda is a Congress ticket aspirant from Madikeri assembly constituency. Former MLA YSV Datta severed his relationship of four decades with Deve Gowda and the JDS, and joined the Congress as he felt the latter party can "safeguard democracy".

Former ministers Pramod Madhwaraj and Varthur Prakash, former LS member from Tumakuru SP Muddahanumegowda, and former MLA KS Manjunath Gowda, among others, have joined the BJP. It may be noted here that former chief minister SM Krishna – who was external affairs minister under the UPA government of Manmohan Singh – joined the BJP in the twilight of his political career.

NOT A NEW PHENOMENON

Party-hopping is a phenomenon prevalent across the globe, but becomes more evident in a massive democracy like India, rendering the trend even more glaring.

BIG PICTURE

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Rashtranayaka and AICC president (1959-62) S Nijalingappa, former Karnataka chief minister, was known for his opposition to party-hopping. In fact, in 1969, he held a preliminary meeting at the Glass House in Lalbagh in Bengaluru, and eventually split the Congress due to his differences with then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He, along with several other prominent leader,s formed a new political party, the Indian National Congress (Organisation).

Former CM BS Yediyurappa formed the Karnataka Janata Paksha (KJP) in 2012 and returned to the BJP in 2014.

Transport minister B Sriramulu launched the Badavara Shramikara Raitara Congress in 2011. Recently, his friend Gali Janardhana Reddy launched Kalyana Rajya Pragati Paksha.

Former chief minister S Bangarappa, known as the champion of backward classes, was a well-known turncoat and also a successful politician -- he switched from the Congress to Karnataka Kranti Ranga, launched Karnataka Congress Party (KCP), and won as MP from Shivamogga both on the BJP and SP tickets.

Former chief minister Siddaramaiah, who started his career contesting the taluk board polls as Raitha Sangha candidate, changed parties seven-eight times, including Lok Dal, Samajwadi Party, Janata Party, Janata Dal, JDS, AIPJD, before landing in the Congress.

The Jarkiholi brothers, 'sahukars' from Belagavi, were in three different parties, including the JDS in the past, apparently to safeguard their families' interests, especially businesses. Ramesh Jarkiholi was prominent among the 17 MLAs who triggered the collapse of the JDS-Congress government led by H D Kumaraswamy. He had to resign as minister following a sleaze CD scam. He had switched from the Congress to BJP, and now there are rumours of him quitting the saffron party.

Former ministers AH Vishwanath and A Manju, former MLC Puttanna are among those who have done the party circuit of the Big 3 -- Congress, BJP and JDS.

The anti-defection law of 1985 is ineffective in stopping defections, and it is up to the people to teach such leaders a lesson at the polls. While there was some deliberation on making defectors wait for five years to contest polls, it goes against one's right to freedom to change parties.

Political parties have become vehicles for defectors who want to fulfil their selfish motives, instead of rendering service to the people through that party. As Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi said, both the means and ends are important. Ideology has taken a backseat.

S Suresh Kumar, BJP leader

Politicians defecting from one party to another are driven by selfish motives and a lack of ideology. Drastic changes are needed in the Representation of People Act to address this unethical politicking. Parties and leaders should prioritise ideology and service to people, rather than overriding self-interest and amassing wealth.

Dr MS Thimmappa, former Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University

Leaders defect from parties for four reasons: fear of not getting renominated as party candidate; feeling sidelined for belonging to certain factions within the party; feeling their party will lose and they will have to sit in the opposition; missing out on party ticket during ticket distribution.

Dr Sandeep Shastri, psephologist

Jitters in JDS: Arsikere MLA quits, to join Congress

BR UDAYA KUMAR @Hassan

In a double-whammy for JDS in Hassan, JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda's turf, Arsikere JDS MLA KM Shivalinge Gowda quit the party and submitted his resignation to Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri at his office in Sirsi town on Sunday.

A multitude of his followers accompanied him as he met the Speaker.

Earlier, AT Ramaswamy had joined BJP in New Delhi in the presence of BJP national president JP Nadda on Saturday.

Gowda said that he will join Congress on Monday in the presence of CLP leader Siddaramaiah during a massive rally in Arsikere town, and was confident that he will get a ticket.

The Arasikere contest gained significance as JDS leaders HD Revanna and former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy have taken it up as a challenge to defeat Gowda. JDS is likely to field a candidate from the Kuruba community who are in large numbers in Arasikere, while NR Santosh, former political secretary of former CM BS Yediyurappa, is likely to get a BJP ticket.

Gowda said that the gap between him and the party higher-ups was widening.

"It is not about winning or losing elections. There is nothing wrong with leaving a party. Many have left and contested elections," he said, adding that he has taken the decision after consulting the people of his constituency, and thanked the JDS party workers and the leaders for cooperating with him.

(with inputs from Subhash Chandra NS in Sirsi)

Great team effort, says PM as nation cheers successful launch of RLV LEX

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

Praises poured in as the Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launched the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) as a part of the Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX) on Sunday in Chitradurga.

ISRO's indigenously developed and built space plane drew eyes from all over the country to Chitradurga when the launch took place at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) situated in Challakere. Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked that the launch was another step in realising an Indian RLV. "A great team effort. This achievement takes us one step closer to realising an Indian Reusable

Launch Vehicle," Prime Minister Modi tweeted.

Several prominent politicians took to social media to praise ISRO, DRDO and the Indian Air Force (IAF) for their collective efforts. "Kudos to ISRO, DRDO and IAF for proving India's rising prowess in space technology yet again by successfully conducting the Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission. The hard work and innovation of Indian scientists have taken India's space programs to new heights," said Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the launch.

Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi said, "ISRO creates yet another record as it successfully conducts the Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX)." Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shobha Karandlaje highlighted that the launch was also an accomplishment in reducing launch costs.

Other state chief ministers also lauded the successful launch. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called the launch "a giant leap for India's space exploration program". While Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami heralded that Chitradurga witnessed a space revolution.

DEADLOCK PREVAILS

Hassan ticket drama reaches Gowda's court

BR UDAYA KUMAR @Hassan

WITH no end to the deadlock in the JDS over Hassan assembly seat, the drama shifted to the Bengaluru residence of party supremo and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda on Sunday evening.

According to sources, Gowda was expected to discuss the matter with his sons HD Revanna and former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy, and daughter-in-law Bhavani after dinner, and announce his stand.

Sources close to Gowda said he would convince Kumaraswamy, who wanted to give the ticket to HP Swaroop, to field Bhavani.

Sources also said that Revanna had threatened to field Bhavani as a rebel candidate, if JDS did not give her the ticket.

Kumaraswamy had earlier said that he would field a party worker from Hassan. However, on Sunday he said that he would abide by the decision of his father Deve Gowda. Sources said that the party's candidate for Hassan is unlikely to be announced on Monday in the second list.

It is said that the Hassan candidate will be announced separately after Gowda holds one more round of talks by Wednesday.

Man set ablaze on train; 8 hurt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kozhikode

A man on Sunday set on fire a fellow woman passenger on the Alappuzha-Kannur Executive Express train. The incident took place when the train was crossing the Korapuzha Elathur bridge around 9.50pm. As many as eight people were injured in the incident, and the condition of two passengers is said to be critical.

The primary victim is supposedly a friend of the perpetrator. According to preliminary information with Elathur police, the accused fled after setting her ablaze. The incident took place in the D1 compartment of the train.

The fire spread to persons sitting next to the woman. A commotion ensued with passengers running to adjoining compartments.

The passengers said the offender was quick to take flight. The injured were shifted to a medical college hospital.

Tharoor's personal staffers clash with Congress district secretary, workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T' Puram

AT a time when uncertainty looms large over **Shashi Tharoor**'s candidature in the next elections, his personal staff members clashed with party workers, including its district secretary, outside the venue of Congress' poll preparatory meeting for the Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency.

District Congress secretary Thampanoor Satheesh alleged that Tharoor's personal staff, including Praveen Ram, unleashed expletives and heckled him at the District Congress Committee (DCC) office where the meeting, attended by Tharoor, was under way.

The meeting was held under the aegis of former Pathanamthitta district chief P Mohanraj, who is currently in charge of election preparations in the Thiruvananthapuram LS constituency. When Tharoor arrived for the meeting, Satheesh urged Mohanraj not to allow the MP's personal staff inside the meeting hall. Mohanraj conveyed the matter to Tharoor. Later, the personal staff members exited the meeting hall, apparently after Tharoor sent them a message over the mobile, to leave.

Satheesh told TNIE that he had to leave the meeting earlier due to the death of his neighbour. "When I got out of the office, around five to six persons belonging to Tharoor's personal staff came and unleashed expletives on me. They also heckled me. On hearing the commotion, DCC leaders came out. Following the intervention of senior leaders, Tharoor managed to get into the car and left," he said.

"It was these personal staff, headed by Praveen Ram, who had always been preventing Tharoor from meeting local Congress leaders. I have been working for Tharoor's victory for 14 years," said Satheesh.

He said he will complain to state Congress president K Sudhakaran on Monday. Satheesh added that he will decide whether to move legally, depending on the outcome of his complaint. However, Praveen Ram did not respond to TNIE's repeated calls. The meeting on election preparations in the seven assembly segments under the Thiruvananthapuram LS constituency were being held over the past two days.

On Sunday morning, local Congress workers from the Kazhakootam assembly segment expressed their displeasure to Tharoor when he left the meeting early. Their grievance was mainly against Tharoor's absence in his constituency during the 2020 local body election, pandemic time and Bharat Jodo Yatra.

EDITORIAL

Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need — Kahlil Gibran

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

TRUMP'S INDICTMENT IS A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD FOR GLOBAL ORDER

If the dramatic indictment last week of former US president Donald Trump by a Manhattan grand jury is just for the cheap thrills of getting him arraigned, photographed and fingerprinted like any ordinary don, it would be a great disservice to the US justice system. Had it been just that—as the Republicans would like to believe—Manhattan district attorney Alvin Bragg would not have taken the trouble of sealing the indictment and letting the mystery cook. The prosecution also played mind games indicating the grand jury would take an extended break to put Trump's hounds off the scent before suddenly announcing the indictment. Bragg has broken new ground by overseeing the criminal indictment of the first US president in or out of office. But if he fails to take it to its logical conclusion, he will be labelled a partisan who does not have what it takes for the office he holds. Fighting Trump's legal army can be bruising, as he has stayed out of the judicial mess so far despite loads of misdemeanours keeping him under intense scrutiny for four decades, which earned him the moniker of Teflon Don.

Trump is expected to turn himself over to the authorities on Tuesday and will be produced in a New York court, where the exact charges against him will be made public. The general understanding is the case is connected to the hush money he paid to an adult film star in 2016 before he became President. The problematic part is the false business record he created to account for it, which is illegal, but that alone isn't sufficient for a conviction. While the buzz is he has been charged under 34 counts, how many of them are felonies and how solid is the prosecution's evidence would determine the case's trajectory.

If the case isn't watertight, it would enhance Trump's optics as a survivor and make him a formidable contender for a second shot at the presidency. A new reset of the global order struggling to survive the current economic slide is in nobody's interest. Trump wrecked the international balance with his hair-brained sanctions and complete lack of strategic foresight during his presidency. He is a foul-mouthing narcissist whose conscience did not prick even when he incited an insurrection to avoid conceding defeat in 2021. The farther he is from the White House, the better it would be for the global community.

ROCKY ROAD FOR GST AS DISSENT GROWS LOUDER

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) had a bumper year in 2022–23, with total collections crossing ₹18 lakh crore and growing at a healthy rate of 22%. So far, so good. But the next big challenge awaiting the country's relatively new indirect tax regime is this: With states no longer receiving compensation from the Centre for the revenue loss due to the implementation of GST, many states will find it difficult to raise enough revenue, and dissatisfaction with GST will only grow. Voices of dissent within the GST Council have gotten shriller in recent times, and things may get uglier as the number of opposition-ruled states grow.

Punjab, Himachal, Puducherry and a few others, where the share of GST compensation in tax revenue exceeded 10% on average, may struggle to generate revenue. Bigger states, such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, may also struggle as GST collection growth slows down. Non-BJP-ruled states have already been expressing their disillusionment with GST. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee recently said she regretted supporting the GST bill. Tamil Nadu and Kerala finance ministers have been equally critical of GST in its present form. If these voices of opposition grow louder, there are chances of structural changes in GST in the future, and the change will not come only because of political opposition. Taxpayers would also force changes.

FY23 was particularly good for GST collections, with average monthly collections crossing ₹1.5 lakh crore—when GST was implemented in July 2017, the government had set a monthly collection target of ₹1 lakh crore for that financial year. While the rebound in economic activities post-Covid lockdowns is one of the reasons for higher collections, the crackdown on 'evasion' since 2020 also contributed. In 2021–22 alone, the GST authorities detected tax frauds of more than ₹54,000 crore and recovered more than ₹21,000 crore in evaded tax. But such crackdowns lead to excesses by the GST officers, resulting in multiple writs filed in different courts. Taxpayers have been raising their voices against a rule that denies a business claiming input tax credit if one of its vendors fails to file a return or pay taxes. These excesses are bound to increase litigations, forcing the authorities to mellow down. The test for the GST regime will be to proactively address the issues raised by states and taxpayers and change for the better.

QUICK TAKE

TEACH THEM TO FISH

In its budget in its election year, Chhattisgarh rolls out a dole of ₹2,500 a month for jobless youth. Many states have given the sop before. But perhaps there's not much thought on its practicality. The dole helps nobody and disincentivises job searches. How long will it last? Is there an alternative the government should think about? The millions of jobless youth are India's untapped resource. Post-Covid, many stopped looking for salaried jobs, joining the services sector instead. Many others are self-employed with irregular incomes. Instead of doles, they'd prefer free vocational training and assured absorption in private enterprises.

The plight of Sri Lanka is its own making. The island's economic woes are now an Asian case study for the IMF

SRI LANKA'S DEBT CRISIS VERY MUCH A GOVERNANCE CRISIS

DILRUKSHI HANDUNNETTI

Award-winning journalist and lawyer. She is a founder and director of the Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)

SOURAV ROY

After months of negotiations, crisis-hit Sri Lanka has secured a $3-billion bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF). It is not an exaggeration to say that President Ranil Wickremesinghe's focus has been entirely on the EFF to the exclusion of other issues. Last week, Colombo received an initial disbursement of $330 million under the EFF and the news has been mostly received with trepidation—and in some quarters, with grave suspicion. While it may appear a dire necessity to some, to others it is nothing but a further extension of the multilateral writ over the troubled island to further ensnare it in an ever-increasing external debt trap. Popular politics of the day paints a grim picture, a multilateral conspiracy to devour Sri Lanka's remaining assets.

The bailout is important for Sri Lanka to boost investor confidence, especially after the island suddenly halted debt servicing and declared bankruptcy a year ago. It is also important as an EFF document has formally recognised Sri Lanka's poor governance including deep-rooted, grand corruption. Little wonder why the IMF tied its support to an ambitious and painful reforms agenda. The bailout package is made available in phases—subject to strict half-yearly reviews.

For his part, President Wickremesinghe has taken every possible measure to prequalify for the bailout package with dogged determination. He has imposed austerity measures, slapped heavy taxes including a wealth tax, introduced a whopping 66% hike in electricity prices and strictly controlled imports. The combined impact of the direct taxes has made the population dizzy and triggered protests against unbearable inflation, especially of food. Wickremesinghe has continuously insisted there is no other road than the IMF way. He has unabashedly used law enforcement authorities to quell legitimate protests, enraging the people further.

Despite the suddenness with which it appeared in people's daily lives, Sri Lanka's financial crisis has been intensifying for years. The island began grabbing global headlines when the crippling balance of payment crisis, precipitated by structural and policy impediments, poured onto Colombo's streets and elsewhere in the form of an unceasing wave of protests. The financial crisis brought the island to a standstill and triggered a political crisis that drove then president Gotabaya Rajapaksa out of office. The outrage was condemnation of a system that caused a huge governance crisis—both political and economic.

Whether the bailout is anyway linked to those public aspirations for sustainable growth remains to be seen. The staff-level agreement—while offering a breather to the crisis-ridden nation—lays grave emphasis on governance reforms. The critical financial sector reforms will impact the most vulnerable sections and the IMF calls for social security and measures to mitigate impacts of economic reforms on these populations. To do so, it calls for a minimum expenditure floor through a well-targeted spending plan which has a new 'social registry' based on objective eligibility criteria. It has also confirmed that while 40% of households qualified for social security, 10% of that social safety net expenditure was spent on the rich!

But a bailout also increases the nation's burgeoning external debt. After gaining IMF membership in 1950, Sri Lanka has already obtained 16 facilities. Whether the island achieved the envisaged progress, what necessitated those many facilities or whether the economic resets worked remain debatable.

In short, the EFF is an IMF instrument providing financial assistance to countries like Sri Lanka that are weighed down by serious medium-term debt servicing problems stemming from structural issues. In support, the IMF offers long-term engagement, low interest, and longer repayment periods. A panacea? Not so fast.

The current plight of Sri Lanka is its own making. The island's economic woes are now an Asian case study for the IMF. It is not good enough to try fulfilling conditions to keep qualifying for the next tranches but to turn the searchlight inwards to critically examine what ails the island economy. The EFF offers more than a clue—and makes a strong connection with last year's peoples' call for a seismic "systemic change".

Today, Sri Lanka is an IMF case study, the first of its kind in Asia, of a Governance Diagnostic Assessment (GDA). Unpack the term GDA and we have an incomparable scenario: reeking corruption, cronyism, nepotism, wrongful benefit distribution, tax evasions, money laundering and so on. The list is endless.

Angry youth have been agitating for course correction, risking arrests and brutal assault. They have clamoured for justice, normalcy, transparency and an end to a political order that benefits only the ruling elite. Though the government has cracked down on protests with a combination of violence, coercion and arrests, the staff agreement is a formal recognition of the island's governance collapse.

President Wickremesinghe, meanwhile, stays committed to economic rebound and has set himself an ambitious deadline of 2026 to overcome bankruptcy. He also pledges to reduce inflation to a single digit by the year-end and provide relief to those in need. He has, systematically, undermined the constitutionally recognised rights of the people by only showing the economic carrot. In doing so, he is treading a dangerous path of undermining people's sovereignty.

Moving forward, Wickremesinghe will now have to demonstrate similar fortitude in curbing corruption. The EFF emphasises on anti-corruption and governance reforms, and calls for improvements in public financial management, assets declaration, assets recovery and strengthening the legal framework within the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

It is his public duty to address the governance issues raised by angry protesters last year. Economic reforms cannot be achieved in a democracy vacuum. Last year's political events were a red flag for those who abuse public trust. They serve as a stinging indictment on the popular Rajapaksas in the court of public opinion. Wickremesinghe should heed the warning.

The Sri Lankan crisis is much more than a financial one: it is about stinging governance failure. Of wanton political leaders. Now that Sri Lanka is a case study on how not to run a country, let this shame become a force—a pressure to push the island towards course recovery.

(dilrukshi@cir.lk)
(dilrukshihandunnetti@gmail.com)

THE HEALING *RAGA'S* LESSON FOR US

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

The national anthem of India *Jana Gana Mana* composed by Rabindranath Tagore is based on the hoary Carnatic *raga* called *Shankarabharanam*, which corresponds to *Raag Bilawal* in Hindustani music. Here is a curious fact—the national anthem of Pakistan is in *Raag Bilawal*. So India shares a poet with the national anthem of Bangladesh and may be said to share a *raga* with that of Pakistan.

Shankarabharanam means 'the ornament of Shiva' and is considered a healing *raga* in music therapy. It is cherished as a favourite of Lord Shiva who is the Vaidishwar or god of doctors, and is said to produce a feeling of empowerment and well-being in listeners.

A tale goes that in the 1820s, *Shankarabharanam* produced such ecstasy at the royal court of Thanjavur that the king, Raja Sarfoji, declared that the singer, Narasaiyer, would be called 'Shankarabharanam Narasaiyer' from that day. So everyone took to calling him that, to his great gratification.

Once, when Narasaiyer badly needed a loan, he went to Rambhadra Moopanar, the zamindar of a place called Kapisthalam in the Kaveri Delta. Moopanar was a big-hearted and hospitable host to many musicians. But, puffed up with pride, Narasaiyer spoke pompously to him. For a loan of eighty gold guineas, he grandly offered *Raga Shankarabharanam* as collateral with a promissory note not to sing it until he had redeemed his debt. Hurt by Narasaiyer's attitude, the zamindar was equally businesslike and accepted his promissory note.

Soon after this unholy bargain, a powerful employee of the East India Company called 'Wallis' Appuraya after his English boss, invited Narasaiyer to perform at his home in the neighbouring town of Kumbakonam.

The singer arrived at Appuraya's house where he was very well accommodated. His host discussed the concert with him and requested that he sing *Raga Shankarabharanam*.

"But I can't," said the singer, greatly embarrassed. "I've pledged not to sing it until I redeem my debt to the landlord of Kapisthalam."

"Bah, is that all?" said Appuraya and sent eighty gold guineas by a swift rider to Kapisthalam.

The messenger returned with Moopanar hot on his heels. Moopanar not only returned the money to Appuraya but chided Narasaiyer for not demanding the money as a cultural right in the first place.

These generous and diplomatic gestures by the two big men saved face all around and brought home to Narasaiyer how very silly and vain he had been to think that he owned the great *raga*. It was merely his good luck that he had presented it creditably and the king had bestowed the title on him. A charming royal whim, no more, but Narasaiyer had gone and fallen for his own publicity.

He realised that the *raga* was an intangible spiritual and aesthetic being. It belonged only to itself and to the people at large. To try and 'own' it was uncultured and impertinent. He could only hope to explore the music as well as his imagination and skill let him.

> Puffed up with pride, Narasaiyer spoke pompously to him. For a loan of eighty gold guineas, he grandly offered *Raga Shankarabharanam* as collateral with a promissory note not to sing it until he had redeemed his debt

Deciding to deal with his chagrin and shame after his professional demands were met, Narasaiyer sang his heart out at the concert. Applauded wildly and presented with bags of gold and jewelled bracelets, he responded with modesty and composure while his heart smote him that he had demeaned himself and betrayed his music. He left quietly the next morning and made his way to the temple town of Kivalur.

An incredible story had rocked South India about Kivalur. The tale went that the saint-composer Muthuswamy Dikshitar had gone to the Kivalur Shiva temple with a song in his head. He asked the priest to let him present it to Lord Shiva but the priest was about to shut the temple for the afternoon and went away saying curtly, "You can wait until we reopen, the deity isn't going anywhere."

So Dikshitar sat down calmly facing the enormous carved wooden doors and began to sing his new composition *Akshaya linga vibho* in *Shankarabharanam*. Passers-by were drawn at once to the music and sat down to listen as if under a spell. Dikshitar sang unhurriedly, each variation adding another rich layer to the song.

Gods, angels, soldiers, singers and dancers seemed to form a glorious company in the song and every flowering plant seemed to bloom and soft breezes to blow. The magical soundscape drew everyone into itself and the people felt their sorrows fading. They began to feel healed and whole, and empowered and happy in that sanctuary of sound.

There was deep silence when the song ended but before the people came out of their enchantment, the locked temple doors crashed open and swung heavily on their medieval hinges.

A collective gasp went up and the priest, who had hung back to see what was going on, rushed forward in tears. He fell at Dikshitar's feet and said how sorry he was. The story had spread from coast to coast and Narasaiyer thought Kivalur would be the right place in which to make his apologies to *Shankarabharanam*.

Arriving at the Kivalur temple, Narasaiyer prayed to Lord Shiva and the spirit of *Shankarabharanam* to forgive him for his vanity and presumption. He found himself a quiet corner of the temple courtyard and meditated on God and on the *raga*. He recalled that an old text called the *Brahmanda Purana* told a story about the *raga*. Narada, the wandering sage, had once stopped at a place called Bhadragiri (Hosur) and worshipped Shiva there by playing *Shankarabharanam* on his divine veena. Shiva was greatly pleased and had rewarded Narada with a glimpse of one of his *lilas* or sacred games.

Thinking over the legends that vivified the land and the close, powerful ties that its people had with their music, Narasaiyer began to feel healed. The world was the most enormous stage on which everybody had their turn and went away, whereas the music stayed on forever. Freed of anxiety by this perspective, he went home. He quietly renounced the title of 'Shankarabharanam Narasaiyer' and became an even better singer for it.

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Defence exports

It's very good news that our country's defence exports have increased 10-fold since 2016–17. This shows how India is carving its path toward becoming a developed country. And the encouragement of India's talent through Make in India is reflected in the form of defence exports rising.
R Anshul Ram, Adilabad

Indian diplomats

Prabhu Chawla's analysis of the Indian diplomats "sabotaging Vishwa Guru push" is really appropriate. Their lack of deftness in tackling secessionist elements reflects their insensitivity. The Centre should stand up against them and post efficient officials to keep the Indian flag flying high.
D S Gururaj, Bengaluru

Punjab separatists

Apropos of *Amritpal poses threat to internal security, diplomatic relations* (Apr 1). This is a realistic analysis of the new monster's effects in Punjab. It is clear that AAP was assisted by separatists during the assembly elections and in turn had to deal with the emerging menace using kid gloves. This new headache has the potential to turn the state into another J&K.
Hemanth Bhide, Mangaluru

Amritpal's activities

The support extended to Amritpal and his anti-national activities from western countries like Canada, UK and US is a clear indication that elections in Punjab are dictated by western Khalistani supporters. But there seems to be a Central intelligence failure to forbode the rise of divisive forces to menacing dimensions.
Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery

Vaikom Satyagraha

The man who knocked on the door of God (Apr 2) by Dr Jayaram Poduval was quite a gripping read. T K Madhavan's (seemingly) intuitive comprehension of the socio-political scenario, aided by his noble intention and intent execution of his idea for social equity, made the Vaikom Satyagraha the resounding success it became. As we're treading through unprecedented intolerance these days, this piece is relevant like never before.
Nishtha, email

Stadium security

This is with reference to *Security beefed up as IPL matches in Hyderabad begin today* (Apr 2). One wonders how spectator-friendly the ingress and egress are. Are both entry and exit gates wide enough to prevent stampedes and chaos should there be a need for evacuation? Is there sufficient provision of toilets and drinking water for a capacity crowd of 40,000?
S Lakshminarayan, Hyderabad

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Prashant Bhushan @pbhushan1
PM's open threat on asking questions: "Lene ke dene paad jayenge"! This is the arrogance of this dictator. Listen to answer of an Opposition leader.

Bhagwant Mann @BhagwantMann
Due to the rains in the last few days, there was a lot of damage to the crops and our government has also ordered special Girdawari...

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
Modi government spied on citizens, opposition, judiciary, election commissioner, journalists through Pegasus with foreign help before last election.

Settle pension issues on priority, House committee tells CAT

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AGAINST the backdrop of a long pendency of cases, a Parliamentary standing committee on personnel, public grievances, law and justice has asked the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) to ensure speedy disposals of cases. The committee in its recent report citing figures of cases pending for a decade has recommended the disposal of cases, especially those related to pension and senior citizens' issues as a top priority. The committee has referred to over 1,350 pending cases that merit priority in quick disposal. The CAT was set up under Article 323A of the Constitution for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to the recruitment or condition of services of Central government employees.

At present, 19 benches and 19 circuit benches in CAT are functional in the country. It has assumed a strong administrative significance after the government notified 251 organisations, including ministries and departments of the central government, under its jurisdiction. The Parliamentary committee in its report has mentioned that 80,545 cases were pending in different benches of the tribunal as on December 31, 2022.

"Of them, around 16,661 cases are pending for zero to one year, 46,534 for one to five years, 16,000 for five to 10 years and 1,350 for more than 10 years", the panel has stated in its report. Citing the CAT (Procedure) Rules, 1987, the committee has also mentioned that "every application should be heard and decided as far as possible, within six months from the date of its registration," but pendency strikes a priority in the disposal. It has further mentioned that as many 1,350 cases are pending for over a decade in addition to over 3,716 cases related to pensions, pending in the tribunal.

Bhutan King's India visit amid China smokescreen

Discomfort in Delhi over PM Tshering's comments on boundary row

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

KING of Bhutan, Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, will be on a three-day state visit to New Delhi from Monday and he will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar.

The King's visit comes at a time when India appears miffed with Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering's comment in an interview to Belgian newspaper Le Libre that China is an equal stakeholder in the boundary issue. "Prime Minister Tshering also denied China encroaching any territory of Bhutan, refuting earlier reports that China had constructed villages inside Bhutan. He also suggested that India, Bhutan and China collectively resolve the border dispute. This hasn't gone down well in India," said a source.

"A lot of information is circulating about Chinese facilities in Bhutan. However, we are not making a big deal about it as they are not in Bhutan. This is an international border and we know exactly what belongs to us," Tshering said in the interview. Eyebrows are raised in India over the China-Bhutan talks over the status of the Doklam trijunction. Bhutan and China are engaged in talks to settle the dispute. The Doklam plateau is at a trijunction of India, Bhutan and China. It may be recalled that in 2017 the Chinese Army began building a road in the area which led to a response from the Indian Army and an extended stand-off between the two nations. If Bhutan was to cede their area in Doklam to China, it would have China literally staring at India.

After Doklam, India's relations with China have been at a low. Then the Galwan incident happened in 2020 and senior leaders have not minced their words to share their disapproval, be it External Affairs Minister Jaishankar or NSA Ajit Doval. Two days back at the SCO (Shanghai Corporation Organisation), National Security Advisor (NSA) Meet, NSA Ajit Doval had stated: "It is my view that the goals and vision of the SCO as enshrined in its Charter, calls upon member states to have mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity of states and inviolability of state borders – non-use of force or threat international relations and seeking no unilateral military superiortiy in adjacent areas." The comment is viewed as an obvious reference to China.

Sources said during the course of interaction the King will have with the senior leadership in India this issue could be brought up for discussion.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Email: shahid@newindianexpress.com

Political Strokes

BJP-JJP HARYANA PACT TEETERING ON THE BRINK

The Haryana ruling alliance between BJP and the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) of deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala, great-grandson of former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, is on the brink of collapse. Sources said that the BJP plans to fight all 10 Lok Sabha seats in the state on its own in the next general elections in 2024. In the last assembly elections, the BJP had emerged as the single largest party with 40 seats, six short of the majority mark of 46 in the 90-member House. The JJP had won 10 seats. The two parties joined hands to form a coalition government. The JJP is considered a Jat party with a large support base in the community. Its impressive showing in the last assembly election was largely due to the huge support it received from the Jats. Over the last three years, however, the Jats have moved away from the ruling coalition. They are said to be veering towards the opposition Congress, which is headed by Jat leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda, a two-time former chief minister of the state. In the changing scenario, the BJP would like to turn the election into a Jat versus non-Jats contest. Jats constitute 22% of the state's population and their long dominance of the state's politics has had a unifying effect on the other social groups. BJP has been a beneficiary of this polarisation. It, therefore, suits the BJP to fight the election without allying with a Jat party. The BJP now commands the support of 47 MLAs, including the independents, and the loss of JJP as an ally will not pose a threat to the stability of the Manohar Lal Khattar government. The break of BJP-JJP relations is a matter of time.

Panel quizzes govt as missions seek to reopen tourism offices

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

WITH some of the Indian embassies and missions abroad seeking reopening of overseas tourism offices, the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has asked the ministry of tourism whether the decision to shut down the dedicated divisions for tourism promotional activities was taken with the consonance of consulates.

The development has come after some embassies and missions had conveyed their concerns about lack of financial and human resources support to carry out activities for tourism promotion through a dedicated 'tourism officer'. Following the decision taken to close all overseas tourism offices by the Centre, the responsibility of promoting Indian tourism destinations was entrusted with a 'tourism officer', a first or second secretary rank official already serving in the Indian diplomatic office in foreign countries.

"The committee notes that some missions had requested that the overseas offices may be kept open and the vacant posts filled. The committee wishes to know whether the decision had been taken in consonance with the missions. Since the overseas tourist offices are closed, the onus of promoting Indian tourism is solely on the Indian missions. The committee, however, notes that the general feeling of the Indian missions is that the role of tourism promotion has been allocated to them without proper financial and human resource augmentation," read the report of the Parliamentary Panel presented to the Rajya Sabha on March 24.

The closure of the overseas tourism offices began in 2018. Subsequently, tourism officers were appointed in 20 countries from where tourist arrival is the highest such as Bangladesh, United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Russia, Australia, France, and Germany. Last seven functional overseas tourism offices in London, Beijing, Singapore, New York, Frankfurt, Dubai and Tokyo were shut on March 31. According to the report, the Indian High Commission in Australia and embassy in Rome recommended reopening of the overseas tourism office.

The Indian embassy in Paris also requested for continuation and resource amplification instead of closing down the tourism office. Flagging the issues of budgetary allocation and manpower, Indian High Commission in Singapore informed the Panel that the two posts of first (economic) and second secretary (commerce) are lying vacant for more than a year.

BJP steps up offensive against Cong, releases video of 'corruption'

RAJESH KUAMR THAKUR @ New Delhi

LAUNCHING a fresh attack on Congress ahead of general elections in 2024, the BJP in a video released on Sunday accused the Congress-led UPA government of committing "dacoity" of people's money during its rule.

In the video, the first in series titled 'Congress Files', the BJP accused the Congress of having committed corruption and scams worth ₹48, 20,69,00,00,000.

The money lost in scam could have been used for purchasing 300 Rafael fighter planes, making 24 INS Vikrant and executing 1000 Mangalyan missions, the BJP said in the video.

The BJP said the period between 2004 and 2014, when Congress-led UPA was in power, was a "lost decade".

Putting the alleged cases of corruption during the Congress rule in a sequence in the video, the BJP said that amount embezzled in corruptions and scams could have helped the country in progress to a great extent. In a sharp attack on then PM Manmohan Singh, BJP accused him of allowing 'corruption after corruption'.

Screengrab of the video posted by BJP on Twitter

The release of video comes a few days after Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge accused the BJP of misusing central agencies for targeting Opposition leaders.

The BJP alleged that the coal scam was worth ₹1.86 lakh crore, a scam worth ₹10,000 crore in MNREGA, the Common wealth scam worth ₹70,000 crore, the 2G spectrum scam worth ₹1.76 lakh crore.

The BJP also said that in the second episode of the video series would come soon with details of a painting that was priced at ₹2 crore and other corruption stories.

Battleground Karnataka

GOWDA PREDICTS A HUNG HOUSE; SEES JD(S) ROLE

The first big Iftar party of Lutyens Delhi was held by Bahujan Samaj Party MP Kunwar Danish Ali at his Pandara Road bungalow. It was attended by over a hundred members of Parliament from both the ruling and opposition parties, as well as diplomats, former vice-president Hamid Ansari and CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury. The evening's centre of attraction was former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda as most of the guests wanted to know which way the wind was blowing in his home state, Karnataka. The 89-year-old enjoyed the attention and animatedly engaged with all as kababs were served and sherbets flowed. He predicted a defeat for the BJP government. But added that the main opposition party, Congress, may not get a majority on its own. Predictably, he said that his party, Janata Dal (Secular), would play a key role in the formation of the next state government. The JD(S) has a strong presence among the Vokkaligas, which is Deve Gowda's caste. The JDS had bagged the post of chief minister after the last assembly election in 2018 as the two larger parties failed to secure a majority. According to Deve Gowda, the result of the current election will be the same as the last one. He did not clearly say which party he will support but hinted at his preference for the opposition Congress. The state is scheduled to vote on May 10 and the results will be announced on May 13.

New Covid variant not deadly, say experts

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

AN investigation into the clinical and epidemiological features of XBB.1.16, triggering the current Covid-19 surge in India, has shown that the new variant is mild and has so far not caused any severe diseases in India. The initial study, which has been submitted to the government, has indicated that out of the 42 people who were infected in Maharashtra with XBB.1.16 - currently a variant of interest - 36 (87.80 per cent) recovered with supportive treatment.

The profiling, which was carried out by Dr Rajesh Karyakarte, head of the Microbiology department, BJMC, Pune, and Maharashtra coordinator for genome sequencing, showed that the one death which was reported due to this sub-variant was of a patient suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and prostate.

"We have submitted our preliminary findings to the government. We want to extend it further to include more patients. Our analysis has shown mild symptoms and has not caused any severity or increased hospitalisations. Genome sequencing helped in detecting the sub-variant at an early stage," Dr Karyakarte told this paper. The sub-variant was already circulating in Pune before it was officially named globally on March 5. In Maharashtra, 60 per cent of the cases are due to the new sub-variant.

The initial study also showed that six people were suffering from co-morbidities. Of the 42, 39 were found to be symptomatic, 12 were hospitalised, and 27 were on home quarantine. Of those hospitalised, only four required oxygen. One person had travelled to Singapore, while three had travelled within India. The study further investigated 41 people for how many were vaccinated. While one opted out from further research, 31 were vaccinated with double doses, four were not. Of them, 11 had taken the booster doses. The result showed that the precaution or booster dose helped reduce disease severity.

While two had taken the first dose, 24 had taken the second dose. The symptoms of the new sub-variant are almost the same as that of the Omicron variant. Most of the people who were analysed reported high fever, cough, cold, muscle pain, weakness/fatigue, breathlessness, headache, and sore throat. Meanwhile, India on Sunday continued to report a high number of Covid-19 cases. As many as 3,824 new Covid-19 cases were reported in the last 24 hours.

According to Krishna Prasad N C, a Covid data analyst, India saw a rise in Covid-19 cases in March. While in January, 4,246 cases and 35 deaths were reported, in February, a slight dip was seen, with 3,720 cases and 32 deaths. But March saw a sudden spike, with 32,219 cases and 101 deaths reported nationwide. Of the total cases and deaths reported till March 31, Kerala recorded the maximum. Of the total 32,219 cases, Kerala recorded 6,741 cases and 37 deaths. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) continues to monitor Covid-19 sub-variant XBB.1.16. Noting that the sub-variant is "one to watch," Maria Van Kerkhove, an infectious disease specialist and WHO's Covid-19 technical lead said that the virus hasn't settled into a predictable pattern and continues to evolve.

> **XBB.1.16. sub-variant is one to watch. It's been in circulation for a few months. The virus hasn't settled into a predictable pattern and continues to evolve**
>
> Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO

At a press briefing this week, she said that XBB.1.16 has a similar profile to XBB.1.5 but has additional changes in the spike protein.

She said XBB.1.16 had replaced other circulating sub-variants in India. So far, there are about 800 sequences from 22 countries, mainly from India. She said in lab studies, XBB.1.16 had shown signs of increased infectivity and potentially increased pathogenicity. "So this is one to watch. It's been in circulation for a few months," she said. "We haven't seen a change in severity in individuals or populations, but that's why we have these systems in place."

States' responsibility to implement menstrual health scheme: Centre

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

LAYING emphasis on the fact that public health is a state subject, the Central government has told the Supreme Court that the implementation of schemes relating to menstrual hygiene falls within the domain of states. "Public health is a state subject and the responsibility of providing healthcare services is that of respective state governments. The Central government and its agencies are not the implementing bodies for schemes relating to menstrual health, and it is in fact the states and their agencies which are at the forefront of enforcement of those policies," the affidavit stated filed before the top court stated.

While responding to a plea filed by Congress MP Jaya Thakur seeking free sanitary napkins, the Centre has also said that the government has approved more than ₹197 crore for the year 2022-23 to states for implementing menstrual hygiene policies. It was also submitted in the affidavit that procurement of sanitary napkins from 2015-16 is being supported by the National Health Mission through state programme implementation plans (PIP) based on proposals received by the states. Underscoring it's dedication of improving access to menstrual hygiene for young and adolescent girls, health ministry in its affidavit has stated that it has undertaken awareness and training programmes and made necessary resources available to girls across the country.

Menstruation still a taboo

Menstruation and menstrual practices are clouded by taboos and socio-cultural restrictions for women as well as adolescent girls in India which is combined with limited access to products of sanitary hygiene and lack of safe sanitary facilities. The government is also working towards increasing access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins for girls in rural areas.

"Moreover, traditionally, there have been practices of using old clothes as pads by recycling them, use of ash or straw, which not only affect menstrual hygiene but also have long-term implications to reproductive health of a woman. The government is dedicated to increase awareness among adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene, building self-esteem and empowering girls for better socialisation, inlcuding increasing access to and use of high-quality sanitary napkins for girls in rural areas," the ministry said.

The plea wherein relief was also sought for provision of separate toilet in all government and residential schools argued that inadequate menstrual hygiene management options were major barriers to education since many girls dropped out of school due to lack of access to sanitation facilities.

The plea highlighted lack of access to hygienic methods for females aged 11 to 16 years. "Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene during menstruation can be a matter of life and death for a woman. According to a report published by Water Aid, illnesses related to a lack of water, basic sanitation and hygiene were responsible for the deaths of almost 800,000 women around the world in a single year making it the fifth biggest killer of women after heart disease, stroke, lower respiratory infections and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease", the plea had stated.

NEW BOMB SQUADS

A senior officer of the Uttar Pradesh police on Sunday flagged off seven bomb detection and disposal squad and two anti-sabotage check vehicles that will be deployed in different areas of the state.

5 NAXALS HELD IN KANKER, SUKMA DISTRICTS OF C'GARH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	34	22	Mumbai	34	25
Bhopal	29	18	Panaji	29	23
Jaipur	29	18	Patna	31	20
Amritsar	26	14	Lucknow	28	19
Chennai	32	26	Port Blair	32	25
Kolkata	30	22	Imphal	25	13
Srinagar	16	07	Chandigarh	24	16

Bengal simmers as violence spreads

After Howrah, clashes erupt in Hooghly district during Ram Navami rally; BJP says MLA hurt

PRONAB MONDAL @Kolkata

The communal violence that erupted in West Bengal's Howrah spread to Hooghly district on Sunday evening during a Ram Navami procession taken out by BJP's national vice-president Dilip Ghosh and several MLAs. The trouble started when the procession was passing in front of a religious place. BJP MLA from Pursura, Hooghly, Biman Ghosh and two other party functionaries were injured along with several others when stones were hurled during the clash. Ghosh was taken out of the area by the personnel of Central Reserve Police Force, who were in-charge of his security.

"During the course of the peaceful procession, stones were thrown from a particular place. Instead of taking action against the attackers, the police dispersed us. Tear gas shells were lobbed to bring the situation under control,'' said Ghosh. The incident took place in Hooghly's Rishra under Serampore sub-division. A large contingent of police personnel, led by commissioner of police Amit Javalgi, rushed to the area. Personnel of Rapid Action Force (RAF) have been deployed in the area to bring the situation under control. Several shops were vandalised and some cycle vans were set ablaze in the violence.

Fresh tension triggers blame game between BJP and Trinamool | EXPRESS

Reacting to the incident, West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose said, "The law breakers will soon realise that they are playing with fire. Police personnel rushed to the spot. We are determined to put an end to this arson. The culprits will be booked and put behind bars tonight itself."

Tension prevailed in Howrah's Shibpur last Thursday following a clash between the two communities during a Ram Navami procession. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hit out at the BJP alleging the conspiracy behind the violence in Howrah was hatched a month ago and the procession took the route which was not allowed for them.

"In Rishra, stones were hurled at women and children during the procession. The state government is taking no action even after the Howrah violence. Several vehicles were vandalised in the attack," said Ghosh. BJP leader Amit Malviya said the violence in Hooghly, following the unrest in Howrah, is a result of CM Mamata Banerjee's approval. "After Howrah, Serampore is burning,'' Malviya tweeted.

The party's West Bengal president Sukanta Majumdar wrote to Union Home minister Amit Shah on Sunday alleging the situation in the state is going out of control. "The chief minister has failed to control the situation. The state needs the Central intervention,'' Majumdar said in his letter to Shah. Following violence in Howrah, Shah called the Bengal governor and inquired about the law and order.

The TMC accused the BJP of the violence. "The violence was a fallout of the BJP's provocation. When Ram Navami was over three days ago, what is the point of taking out a procession on the occasion,'' said TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh.

Centre releases ₹1,200 cr for mid-day meal scheme

Barely 24 hours after West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's two-day sit-in-demonstration in protest against the state's dues from the Centre, the Union government released ₹1,200 crore for mid-day meal scheme Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. State finance minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said the fund of 2022-23 was released because of the pressure mounted by the CM by organising two-day dharna. Mamata had threatened to take her movement to Delhi if the Centre does not clear state's dues

Huge chunks of land freed in J&K encroachment drive

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

IN the ongoing anti-encroachment drive to regain the government land, opposing the Roshni Act, the state has retrieved 15.83 lakh kanals of land in Jammu and Kashmir in three months. In the recently released J&K Economic survey, the Lt Governor administration gad revealed that 22.40 lakh kanal of government land was under encroachment.

It disclosed that during the ongoing anti-encroachment drive, which was launched in the first week of January this year across the UT, 15.83 lakhs kanals of land has been retrieved from encroachers so far. "The land regained is 71 per cent of the total encroached land in the UT," the government stated, adding most of the encroached land was retrieved from influential persons.

The land has been recovered from former ministers, ex legislators and serving and retired bureaucrats. J&K Lt Governor **Manoj Sinha** had recently said the drive to recover the government land will continue.

"Let me make it clear that we will take back all state land.

The state land is government's property and it must remain with the government," Sinha had said.

The retrieved land would be used to fuel industrial revolution in J&K, he added.

A top official said that the anti-encroachment drive was not stopped or halted at any point of time and is going on.

"The drive is being carried out on directions of the Court. It is going on a systematic manner," he said. In October 2020, J&K High Court had declared the 2001 Roshni Act unconstitutional and unsustainable, which gave ownership rights to the unauthorised occupants of state land against payment of a premium.

PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR
Our correspondent in Bihar
ramashankar@newindianexpress.com

Nitish displeased with Chief Secretary?

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar lost his cool once again. However, this time, he targeted chief secretary Amir Subhani in Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC)'s Foundation Fay function. Nitish was annoyed with soft-spoken Subhani over three vacant posts of members in BPSC against total six members. He directed chief secretary to fill the vacant posts in five days. Nitish also expressed his displeasure over BPSC's questions paper leak. The issue related to question paper leak had rocked the Assembly last week, with Opposition demanding a fair investigation and action against offenders.

JDU demands Bharat Ratna for ex-CM

Demand for conferring Bharat Ratna on former Bihar chief minister Sri Krishna Sinha is gaining momentum, with JDU leader and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar raising the issue once again. JDU lawmaker and former minister Neeraj Kumar said that Bihar veteran politician and former chief minister Sri Krishna Sinha should be conferred on Bharat Ratna for his outstanding contribution to nation building. It was expected that Union Home minister Amit Shah will announce the same during his meeting in Nawada, the birthplace of departed leader, that has been developed by Nitish government.

Trained dogs deployed to catch poachers

Concerned over frequent attack on wild animals in Valmikinagar Tiger Reserve in West Champaran district, the forest department has decided to deploy trained dogs to to net poachers operating in the region. The process of deployment of dog squad will start from the first week of April. Forest conservator, VTR, Neshamani said that in February this year one tiger and a leopard fell victim to poachers. The poachers usually attack the animals near ponds and water reservoirs when they come there to quech thirst. Trained dogs will help keep a tab on the movement of poachers in two forest divisions of state's first tiger reserve.

'India a new superpower, seeks permanent UN membership'

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH @Dharwad

INDIA is emerging as a new superpower, and the entire globe is turning towards rising India and admiring its progress and development in all sectors, Minister for External Affairs S Jaishankar said. He was speaking at the interaction session at Sannidhi Kalakshetra here on Sunday.

Jaishankar stressed how the Indian government is putting pressure on the United Nations for permanent membership. On the Khalistani movement, he said the activists are getting a boost from a few organisations and neighbouring nations, and the issue will be solved with diplomacy. The nation will not accept any disrespect to the Tricolour.

"We have deployed armed forces along the China border and there is no talk of compromise, we are also able to tackle challenges in safeguarding the nation and its people without hesitation. We are much ahead in exports, while once we were leading with imports. Other nations are waiting to start their business in India," he added.

On Karnataka, the EAM said the state takes top slot for education, startups, FDI investments and other such indexes.

West has a habit of commenting on others, says Jaishankar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

"THE West thinks it has the God-given right to comment on the internal matters of other countries," said External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, in reply to a question on Germany and the United States commenting on the disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as Member of Parliament.

He was interacting with hundreds of young voters, joggers and visitors at Cubbon Park here on Sunday, as part of the 'Meet and Greet' interaction organised by Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya and Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan.

"We also need to stop giving invitations to the world, saying there are problems in India. You are inviting people to comment on you, and more and more people are tempted to comment. So if somebody from here goes and says why are you standing by and saying nothing, obviously they are going to comment," Jaishankar said, with an oblique reference to Rahul Gandhi's visit to the United Kingdom.

Commenting on the freebie culture, Jaishankar said some people in Delhi are masters of it and added that they are doing it because they don't have the responsibility of raising resources.

Remarking that India hosting G20 will get the world ready for it, Jaishankar went on to talk about the significance of hosting the G20 this year. "We have taken up G20 at an important time in the world. We consulted 125 countries that are not part of the G20 and came up with the issues being faced by them."

"Moreover, countries generally hold G20 meetings in their capital and other 2-3 cities. Our way of doing this is to do it across 60 cities, across states and Union Territories. We want every city and state to be more aware of the world because, in a globalised world, that is where our opportunities are," he said.

We also need to stop giving invitations to the world, saying there are problems in India. You are inviting people to comment on you, and more and more people are tempted to comment

Dr S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

MVA RALLY

'Judiciary faces threat under BJP rule'

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

UDDHAV Thackeray on Sunday addressed a mega rally of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Sambhaji Nagar (Aurangabad) and said that democracy is under threat under the BJP rule.

"All the main pillars of democracy are destroyed by the BJP. The last ray of hope is the judiciary. Once the last pillar goes, it will be democracy's last day," Uddhav said.

Maha Vikas Aghadi's alliance partners kick-started the campaign named Vajramut – against the BJP and its wrong policies.

The first joint meeting of alliance partners started from Sambhaji Nagar on Sunday while other rallies took place in Nagpur, Pune, Nasik, and Kolhapur.

MVA has decided to consolidate its different ideological following of voters ahead of the key elections and connect the people by recalling the good work done during the MVA government and pandemic.

Uddhav Thackeray said that BJP and its ministers are continuing to attack the judiciary and they have plan to usher it in their control by abolishing the current independent Collegium – judge's appointment system.

Setback to Raje? BJP names Rajput leader as LoP in poll-bound Raj

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

AFTER a wait of nearly two months, the BJP has found a new leader of the Opposition in Rajasthan. Senior MLA from the Rajput community, Rajendra Rathore, was appointed the LOP on Sunday after a meeting of the party's newly appointed state president CP Joshi, party officials and MLAs at the BJP headquarters in Jaipur.

Sources said this is the second time in two weeks that former CM Vasundhara Raje has been ignored for an important position by the BJP leadership. On February 12, the previous leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Gulabchand Kataria, was appointed the Governor of Assam. Since then, that post was lying vacant.

The former state BJP chief and arch-rival of Raje, Satish Poonia was declared deputy leader of the Opposition. A thrilled Rajendra Rathore described himself as a grassroots worker. "A new responsibility has been assigned to me and I will try to live up to expectations," he said. During the meeting on Sunday, senior party leaders including Raje and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat were present.

Earlier, during the Legislature Party meeting, former Assembly Speaker Kailash Meghwal who was also in the LOP race left the meeting in a huff. However, after persuasion by senior leaders, he returned. Later, supporters of Rajendra Rathore who came from Churu raised slogans at the state BJP office. In the evening a meeting of the BJP Rajasthan Core Committee took place to discuss the strategy for the state elections due in December this year. Rajasthan BJP in-charge Arun Singh and co-in-charge Vijaya Rahatkar were also present in the meeting.

On Friday night, the party's newly appointed state president CP Joshi had tweeted that Rathore was being appointed the LoP. However, the tweet was deleted shortly.

Rain water widening cracks in Joshimath houses

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

INCESSANT rains in hilly areas over the past two days have added to the threat posed to the people affected by water subsidence in Joshimath. The cracks in their houses since the beginning of this year have widened due to rainwater filling inside the cracks.

The gap has also increased in the 'measurement marks' installed to assess the land submergence in the Singhdhar area. The administration has evacuated the affected houses located in the 'red zone.' However, it's the widening cracks that have fueled fears in the area. Kamal Raturi, a resident of Manohar Bagh, says the land in Joshimath continues to sink. "The Singhdhar area where the administration put up signs for submergence assessment clearly indicates the rising threat of land submergence," he said.

Reports about widening of cracks in buildings have come from Singhdhar, Manohar Bagh, Cantonment Bazar and other places in Joshimath. Local residents said three "supports" installed to check the level of submergence have loosened their grip as the land continues to sink.

Reports of widening of cracks in building have come from different parts

Disaster-affected Devendra Singh, who lives under Hotel Malari-Inn, says his house is completely damaged. Two hotels, the Malari Inn and the Mount View, have been dismantled at this place, but the land-sinking continues, resulting in the widening of the cracks

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kumkum Joshi told this newspaper that 15 pre-fabricated huts built in Dhaka in Joshimath are ready, although they do not have water connection yet. "The administration will supply water to these huts through tankers as the supply line has not yet been built."

"The administration has also made disaster-affected people inspect the new structures before the allotment. Many people have come to take a look," said SDM Joshi.

The holy town has plunged into a full-blown crisis after houses and roads developed cracks due to land subsidence. So far 678 houses have developed cracks. The town has been declared a landslide and subsidence-hit zone.

The Centre has stressed the safety of the people and has asked experts to prepare short- and long-term plans for conservation and rehabilitation.

Manohar Bagh, Singdhar and Marwari areas are some of the worst-hit areas. Though people have been moved out of the danger zones, but water seepage and a loss to the environment in terms of forest land and haphazard big construction works are often cited as the prime causes of land subsidence.

The Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) published a report in September 2022 that cited the ill-planned construction in the town as an important reason behind the land sinking.

The report also pointed out that the inadequate drainage and wastewater disposal systems had exacerbated the problem.

Four Indians drown attempting to cross into US from Canada

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

MEMBERS of an Indian family from Gujarat are among eight killed while attempting to cross the St Lawrence River by boat to enter the United States illegally from Canada.

Bodies of Praveenbhai Chaudhary (50), his son Meet Chaudhary (20), and daughter Vidhi Chaudhary (24) were recovered, Canadian police said. Dakshaben Chaudhary (45) is the fourth Indian victim to be identified. They were from the Mehsana district of Gujarat.

Local police believe they drowned on Wednesday night after their boat capsized in the river amid bad weather. The other four who were killed were also travelling in the same boat. In an interview with local media, Jasu Choudhary, a relative of Praveenbhai said, "Two months ago, my brother went to Canada on a visitor visa with the family. We learned this morning that an Indian family drowned while illegally entering America by boat. We called our other relatives in Canada and discovered that among those killed are my brother and his family members."

File photo of search operation in St Lawrence River in Akwesasne | AP

Romanians also among dead

At least two of the others killed are of Romanian descent. Canadian Police are probing the exact circumstances of their deaths, local media reported

Mehsana Superintendent of Police (SP) Achal Tyagi said he has received information that four Indians have died. "We have come to know that they are all from Mehsana," he said, adding that there has been no official communication yet.

A Mehsana district administration official said Malekpura village residents approached the collector with a request to make arrangements for the bodies of the four deceased to be brought back to their native village.

Calling it a shocking incident, former state home minister Vipul Chaudhary told reporters the government should make arrangements for the bodies of the victims to be brought back here.

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gold miner's bodies have been recovered from two pits in which they were trapped by flood water in Burundi

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	19	11	TDS	Los Angeles	17	8	LC
Colombo	30	25	LC	Melbourne	23	10	HR
Dhaka	33	24	TDS	Moscow	13	6	HR
Dubai	25	21	SNY	New York	15	11	LC
Houston	32	23	SNY	Singapore	29	26	TDS
Istanbul	18	11	LC	Toronto	13	4	LC
London	12	1	LC	Washington	22	13	LC

Ukraine offers plan of Crimea without Kremlin

Dismantle the bridge that links the Black Sea peninsula to Russia

KYIV

A top Ukrainian official on Sunday outlined a series of steps the government in Kyiv would take after the country reclaims control of Crimea, including dismantling the strategic bridge that links the seized Black Sea peninsula to Russia. Oleksiy Danilov, the secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, published the plan as Ukraine's military prepares for a spring counteroffensive in hopes of making new gains after more than 13 months of war.

Danilov suggested prosecuting Ukrainians who worked for the Moscow-appointed administration in Crimea, adding that some would face criminal charges and others would lose government pensions and be banned from public jobs.

All Russian citizens who moved to Crimea after 2014 should be expelled, and all real estate deals made under Russian rule nullified, Danilov wrote on Facebook.

As part of the plan, he also called for dismantling a 19-kilometre bridge that Russia built to Crimea. In October, a truck bomb severely damaged the bridge, which is Europe's longest and a symbol of Moscow's conquest of the peninsula.

Danilov also argued for renaming the city of Sevastopol, which has been the main base for the Russian Black Sea Fleet since the 19th century. He said it could be called Object No. 6 before Ukraine chooses another name, suggesting Akhtiar after a village that once stood where the city is now.

A local resident walks next to a damaged house after a Russian missile strike in the town of Kostyantynivka in the Donetsk region, Ukraine on Sunday | AFP

Danilov published his plan as Ukraine prepared to use newly supplied Western weapons, including battle tanks, to breakthrough Russian defences and reclaim occupied areas in a counteroffensive expected as early as this month.

Meanwhile, Russian missiles hit a densely populated area of the eastern Ukrainian city of Kostyantynivka on Sunday, killing six people, police said. There was a large crater in a yard and windows were shattered from ground to top floors in two 14-storey tower blocks, while nearby private houses had smashed roofs, *AFP* journalists saw.

Donetsk regional police said that Russia fired S-300 and Uragan missiles in a "massive attack" involving six strikes just after 10.00 am local time (0700 GMT) Kostyantynivka is around 27 kilometres from the city of Bakhmut, where the war's heaviest fighting is continuing. Prosecutors said three women and three men aged from late 40s to mid-60s were killed, whereas eight more persons were injured.

The blast hit "16 apartment buildings, 8 private residences, a kindergarten, an administrative building, three cars and a gas pipeline," police said in a statement. *Agencies*

FINLAND'S SDP, CENTRE-RIGHT TIED AS 45% VOTES COUNTED

HELSINKI

FINNISH PM Sanna Marin's Social Democratic Party (SDP) was tied with the centre-right National Coalition in the first partial results from Sunday's general election, with the far right trailing in third place.

With 45% of the votes counted, the Social Democrats and the conservative National Coalition Party both had 20.7%, while the far-right Finns Party stood at 18.7%, according to the justice ministry.

"Let's take our time, but now we have a good start, a very good start," National Coalition leader Petteri Orpo told reporters in Helsinki. Significant changes are still possible in the results as more votes are counted, with full results expected between 10.00 pm and midnight (1900 and 2100 GMT).

Traditionally, the biggest of the eight main parties in parliament gets the first chance at building a government, and since the 1990s the largest party has always taken the prime minister's office.

Officials start counting the advance votes for the Finnish parliamentary elections at the Kallio administrative building in Helsinki, Finland on Sunday | AFP

"I am really grateful for all the votes that have been cast so far," Sanna Marin said in Helsinki. While the Finns Party was behind in the advance voting results, they traditionally improve their standing as more votes from the election day are counted. "You have to be in suspense for quite a long time. In 2019, we went up after the early votes," far-right leader Riikka Purra told reporters.

Over 2,400 candidates from 22 parties were vying for the 200 seats in the Nordic country's parliament, the Eduskunta. Some 40% of eligible voters cast their ballots in advance.

The latest survey on Thursday by public broadcaster *Yle* showed the SDP in third place with a projected 18.7% of the vote. The centre-right National Coalition held a thin lead at 19.8%, with the nationalist and eurosceptic Finns Party in second place at 19.5%.

Apart from Finland's economy, other issues the parties debated during the election campaign were the government's increasing debt, climate change, education, immigration and social benefits.

Finland, which is expected to join NATO, is a European Union member with a population of 5.5 million. *Agencies*

Suella rejects idea of travelling delays due to Brexit

Suella Braverman on the Sunday Morning political show of *BBC* | AFP

LONDON

CHANNEL ferry operators laid on extra sailings overnight to clear a backlog that has seen passengers travelling from the United Kingdom to France delayed for up to 16 hours.

However, UK interior minister Suella Braverman on Sunday rejected the idea that delays at the start of the Easter getaway were "an adverse effect of Brexit" which ended free movement from Britain to European Union member states.

Despite the additional crossings, Dover Port on England's southern coast said coach passengers could still face waits of up to eight hours before they were able to board a ferry.

Braverman told *Sky News* some delays were to be expected at peak holiday times. "I think we have got a particular combination of factors that have occurred at this point in time. This will ease... but it is a busy time of year," she said.

Braverman also said she is convinced Rwanda is a safe nation for migrants to settle down.

"We're looking at 2023 and beyond," she said on Sunday. "The High Court—senior expert judges—have looked into the detail of our arrangement with Rwanda and found it to be a safe country and found our arrangements to be lawful." *Agencies*

STRONG CONCERN

Japan opposes detention of national by Chinese govt

TOKYO

JAPAN'S Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi protested in a meeting on Sunday with his Chinese counterpart the detention of a Japanese national in Beijing and raised "strong concern" about China's escalating military activity near Taiwan and around Japan. Hayashi is on a two-day visit in China, becoming Japan's first diplomat to make the trip in more than three years as frictions grow between the countries. He also met Chinese Premier Li Qiang and top diplomat Wang Yi on Sunday.

During his talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang, Hayashi demanded an early release of an employee of the Japanese pharmaceutical company Astellas Pharma, who was detained in Beijing last month over what the Chinese Foreign Ministry described as spying allegations. Neither side has offered further details about the man nor the allegations against him.

Hayashi told reporters that he raised "serious concern" about China's increasingly assertive maritime activity in the East and South China seas, and stressed the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. He said he also expressed grave concern about Beijing's increased joint military activity with Russia around Japan while Moscow wages war against Ukraine, and urged China to act responsibly for global peace.

Qin meanwhile warned against Japanese involvement in issues related to Taiwan, the self-ruled island that China claims as its own, saying Tokyo should not interfere and "undermine China's sovereignty in any way," according to a statement from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. *AP*

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayash (L) shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang | AP

A school bus is surrounded by debris in an area that was heavily damage by a tornado in Sullivan, Indiana on Saturday | AP

US Midwest, South reel under pack of tornadoes

WYNNE

RESIDENTS across a wide swath of the South and Midwest on Sunday raced to assess the destruction wreaked by storms that dropped possibly dozens of tornadoes and killed at least 27 people in small towns and big cities, as severe weather moved into parts of the Northeast.

Earlier storms tore a path through the Arkansas capital, collapsing the roof of a packed concert venue in Illinois and stunning people throughout the region on Saturday with the damage's scope.

The White House in a statement announced on Sunday that it would provide federal resources, including financial assistance, to support recovery efforts after President Joe Biden issued a major disaster declaration.

Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders had already declared a state of emergency and activated the National Guard. Confirmed or suspected tornadoes in at least ten states destroyed homes and businesses, splintered trees and laid waste to neighbourhoods across a broad swath of the country.

Teams from the National Weather Service on Sunday were investigating reports of tornados touching down in New Jersey and Delaware, the president's home state, where severe weather prompted warnings across a widening area. Numerous homes were damaged and roadways shut down in southern Delaware, authorities said.

One person was found dead inside a house heavily damaged by the storm on Saturday night in Bridgeville, Sussex County, Delaware State Police reported. However, the exact cause of death was not known. The dead also included at least nine in one Tennessee county; four in the small town of Wynne, Arkansas; three in Sullivan, Indiana; as well as four in Illinois. More than 530,000 homes and businesses were without power as of midday Saturday, over 200,000 of them in Ohio, according to PowerOutage.us. *AP*

DAYS TO DEDUCE EXACT NUMBER OF TORNADOES

It could take several days to determine the exact number of tornadoes from the latest event, said Bill Bunting, chief of forecast operations at the Storm Prediction Center. There were also hundreds of reports of large hail and damaging winds, he said. The sprawling storm system also brought wildfires to the southern Plains, with authorities in Oklahoma reporting nearly 100 of them on Friday. At least 32 people were said to be injured, and more than 40 homes destroyed.

Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8-(1)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **IIFL Home Finance Limited** (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IIFL HFL** for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. "The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, If the borrower clears the dues of the **"IIFL HFL"** together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by **"IIFL HFL"** and no further step shall be taken by **"IIFL HFL"** for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower (s) /Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mr. Basavaraju B C, Mr. Arun Kumar B, Mrs. Sowbhagya, **(Prospect No. 944856)**	All that piece and parcel of: 91/406, Begur, Nelamangala, Begur, Bengaluru-562123, Karnataka, India, Admeasuring 640 Sq. Ft.	**Rs.6,96,530/-** (Rupees Six Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty Only)	20-Jan-2022	30-Mar-2023

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office:** "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025 **or Corporate Office:** Plot No.98, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place: Bangalore, Date: 03-04-2023 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.**

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE

EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD
Registered Office: 4th Floor, Spencer Plaza, No.769, Mount Road, Anna Salai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Pincode - 600 002. Ph : 044-42995000, 044-42995050

SALE NOTICE FOR THE SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable assets under SARFAESI Act, 2002, R/w rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers, Co borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd., will be sold on **20.04.2023** "AS IS WHERE IS" "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION" for recovery of below mentioned amount due to Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd., from the following borrowers.

Name of the Borrower/s / Guarantors: 1. Mrs. K. Sujatha, W/o. K. Ajaichudamani, **2. Mr.K. Ajaichudamani,** S/o. Rajaiah Naidu, **3. Mrs. Chinnapapa,** W/o. Rajaiah Naidu, **All are residing at** No.10-A, 1st Main 2nd Cross, 3rd Main, Ramanjaneya Nagara, Chikkalasandra, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560061, **Loan Account No.ELPMLATL0015466, Claim Amount Due Rs.20,80,232/-**as on **25-11-2021** with further interest from **26-11-2021** with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., **(Total Outstanding being Rs. 26,61,073/- as on 30.03.2023).**

Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property): All the piece and parcel of Northern Portion of Property bearing No. 154, Carved out of Sy. No. 23 of Nagadevanahalli, (Bhuvaneshwari Nagar) Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore now within the Jurisdiction of BBMP. North by : Property No. 155, South by: Southern portion of same property, East by: Property No.135, West by: Road, Measurement: East-West 40 Feet and North-South 15 Feet. Total measuring 600 Sqft situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Kengeri and Registration District of Bangalore.

RESERVE PRICE: Rs.29,00,000/- **EMD: Rs.2,90,000/-**

Date of E-auction: 20.04.2023

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in www.equitasbank.com & https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net

Place: Bangalore **Authorized Officer,**
Date: 03.04.2023 **Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd.**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. SR-TVC0SnT(TEND)/3/2023/05 dated 31.03.2023

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram-14 for and on behalf of The President of India invites e-tenders for the following work.

Tender No.: TVC-SNT-SIG-22-23-19
Name of work: Provision of S&T arrangements in connection with proposed Re-girdering of Br. No.132 between CKI and KUC stations in TVC Division.
Cash Value (Approx.)(Rs.): 8,08,115.16
Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.): 16,200/-
Last Date for Receipt of Tender: 24.04.2023 14.00 Hrs
Completion period: 30 days
Complete details & tender document will be available at **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Madurai Division
Tender Notice No: U-TRD-OT-22-23-VIII-1 dated 30.03.2023

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, Southern Railway, Madurai – 625016 invites E-Tenders from reputed contractors for the under mentioned works,

***Name of the Work:**
Electrification of Pit line 3 & 4 at Madurai junction for Vande Bharat trainset maintenance facilities
Approx. Tender Value (₹): 73,17,022.54
Bid security (₹): 1,46,400
Cost of Tender Form (₹): Nil
Completion Period: 3 Months
*Eligibility criteria is applicable for this tender.
Tender Closing Date & Time: 21.04.2023 & 11:00 hours
For details interested persons may kindly be log on to website at **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** For eligibility criteria, other details, terms and conditions, the tenderers are advised to refer to the documents uploaded. All Addendum/Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client Sri. Murugesan Krishnasamy & Sellapriya Murugesan, proposes to purchase the property mentioned in the schedule 1&2 herewith from its owner Robert. I. who has represented as he is the absolute owner of the property. Persons objecting for the proposed sale or having any right in the said property may lodge their objections with the undersigned along with suitable documentary evidence within 15 days from the date of this publication. objections and /or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

SCHEDULE-1

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Immovable Residential Property bearing Site No.22, BBMP Khatha No.634/22 formed in Sy No. 28, which is duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural Residential purpose vide its order No. BDS. ALN SR(S)379/2004-2005, dated 21-10-2004, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, formed in the lay-out Ashraya Woods, Situated at YELENAHALLI VILLAGE, Begur, Bangalore South, Bangaluru District, Measuring, East to west 45 feet, North to South 30 feet, Totally measuring 1350.Sq.ft. Bounded as East by: Road, West by: Site No.27, North by: Site No.23, South by: Site No.21

SCHEDULE-2

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Immovable Residential Property bearing Site No.21, BBMP Khatha No.649/21 formed in Sy No. 28, which is duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural Residential purpose vide its order No. BDS. ALN SR(S)379/2004-2005, dated 21-10-2004, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, formed in the lay-out Ashraya Woods, Situated at YELENAHALLI VILLAGE, Begur, Bangalore South, Bangaluru District, Measuring, East to west 45 feet, North to South 30 feet, Totally measuring 1350.Sq.ft. Bounded as East by: Road, West by: Site No.28, North by: Site No.22, South by: Road.

Sd/-
B.N. Venkatesh. M.Sc., LLb., P.G. DCLT.
ADVOCATE. #1186,18th 'A' Main, J.P. Nagar
II Phase, Bangalore-560078. Mobile- 9448612045

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client Sri. Arunkumar Sekar & Divyasri.B.S. proposes to purchase the property mentioned in the schedule herewith from its owner Robert. I. who has represented as he is the absolute owner of the property. Persons objecting for the proposed sale or having any right in the said property may lodge their objections with the undersigned along with suitable documentary evidence within 15 days from the date of this publication. objections and /or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Immovable Residential Property bearing Site No. 36, BBMP Khatha No.605/36, formed in Sy No. 28, which is duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural Residential purpose vide its order No. BDS. ALN SR(S)379/2004-2005, dated 21-10-2004, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, formed in the lay-out Ashraya Woods, Situated at YELENAHALLI VILLAGE, Begur, Bangalore South, Bangaluru District, Measuring, East to west 30 feet, North to South (43.9+44.6)/2 feet, Totally measuring 1327.5 Sq. ft. Bounded as East by: Site No.37, West by: Site No.35, North by: Road, South by: Private property.

B.N.Venkatesh. M.Sc., LLb., P.G. DCLT.
ADVOCATE, #1186,18th 'A' Main, J.P. Nagar
I Phase, Bangalore-560078. Mobile- 9448612045.

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IN THE COURT OF THE 57th ADDL CITY CIVIL SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
G & W.C. No. 25001/2023 (CCH-58)

BETWEEN: 1. Master Aviksheet, S/o Late BIMALENDU DE, aged about 12 years, **2. Kum. Srinika D E,** D/o Late BIMALENDU DE, aged about 8 years, **SAMPA LASKAR DE** W/o LATE BIMALENDU DE, aged about 45 years, All are R/at Flat No. 303, DS Max Sandalwood, Oppcsite Rockline Studio, Nagasandra, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru- 560073.

AND: NIL ... RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the Petitioner herein have instituted a petition for Sale permission certificate under section 33 of the Guardian and wards act 1890 R/w section 8 of the hindu minor and guardianship act, therein, in favour of the petitioners herein of the death of **BIMALENDU DE** , who died on 09.01 2020 in connection with the schedule mentioned therein i.e., **BIMALENDU DE** was the Original owner of the Schedule property and was expired on 09.01.2020. Take notice that, any person interested, is hereby required to appear before this Hon'ble 57th Addl. City Civil Judge, Mayohall, Bengaluru (CCH-58) on **22-05-2023** at 11.00 AM in person by a pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that, in case of default, petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY

All that piece and Parcel of undeveloped converted land property bearing Sy.No.1/2, and rectified as Sy.No. 1/3A, which measuring to an extent of 1 Acre 32 guntas, situated at Nagasandra Village, Yeshwantpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, in vide Order No. ALN(N)(Y)SR. 77/2012-13, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore and bounded on: **East by:** Sy. No. 38 Land, **West by:** Road and Sy.No. 66 land, **North by:** Sy No.2 land **South by:** Road.

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY

394 Sq. ft undivided shared, right, title and interest of land in the total land of Schedule A Property referred to above.

SCHEDULE C PROPERTY

Flat bearing no. 303 in the Third Floor, Constructed over the **Schedule A Property** contains Bed Rooms, Kitchen, Dining, Toilet/s , Living Room, with one car parking bearing no. 303 and the super built up area, measuring 1418 Sq.ft. of the Apartment known as **DS-MAX SANDALWOOD** together with an undivided share of 394 sq.ft as per **Schedule B** Referred below, along with water and electricity together with common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts staircase and other areas for common use.

Given under my hand & Seal of the Court on this 28-03-2023.

By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Petitioner: **JYOTHI .C PUNARVIKA LAW ASSOCIATES**
S2, Second Floor, Vijayagalaxy Apartment, Sannakkihailu Road, Maruthinagar, Kamakshipalya, Bengaluru - 560079.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Tender Notice No. OHE/CN/DyCEE/22-23/07/182 Date: 30-03-2023

For and on behalf of The President of India, the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/OHE/Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore invites E-Tender for the following works.

"OHE Modification works in connection with construction of ROB/RUB in lieu of level crossings in SA and TPJ divisions of Southern Railway."

Tender Value : Rs. 42,86,234.40
Tender closing date and time: 24.04.2023 at 11.00 hrs
For more details visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

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RITES LTD.,
A Govt. of India Enterprise (Ministry of Railways)
CIN No. U74899DL1974GOI007227
5th Floor, Industry House, 45, Fair Field Layout, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001
Ph. : 080-22160268, 22257118, Fax : 080-22260557, e-mail : bangalorepo@rites.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

GGM(P), RITES Ltd. Bengaluru invites Open Tenders vide **NIT No. RITES/BLR/OT/08/2023 Date 03.04.2023, NIT No. RITES/BLR/OT/09/2023 Date 03.04.2023, NIT No.RITES/BLR/OT/10/2023 Date 03.04.2023, NIT No. RITES/BLR/OT/11/2023 Date03.04.2023** and **NIT No. RITES/BLR/OT/12/2023 Date 03.04.2023** Last date and time ofsubmission of bid **24.04.2023 upto 11.00 hrs, 11.30 hrs, 15.00 hrs, 15.30 hrs** and **16.00hrs.** respectively. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app.** Addendum / Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted online only.

Sd/- GGM (P)
RITES Ltd. Bangalore
For and on behalf of DCTE

Udaya Souharda Credit Co-Operative Society Ltd.
Regd. Off : "Udaya ahakara Bhavana", # 29/11, 1st Main, Mount Joy Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru-19.

POSSESSION NOTICE Appendix IV [Rule 8(1)

APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MORTGAGED TO UDAYA SOUHARDA CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD. ML. NO. 01107533.

For immovable property mortagage to **Udaya Souharda Credit Co-Operative Ltd.,** Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Udaya Souharda Credit Co-operative Society Ltd, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice dated **06.04.2022** calling upon the borrower mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under **Sub Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8** of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **29th day of MARCH of the year 2023.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **UDAYA SOUHARDA CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD,** for an amount mentioned below and interest thereon.

You are further requested to note that as per Section 13(13) of The Sarfaesi Act, 2002, you are Restrained/Prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the Secured Asset, without prior written consent of **UDAYA SOUHARDA CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.,** The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DETAILS OF THE LOAN ACCOUNT : Name of the Borrower : Somashekar .M.G S/o. Gopala Reddy, Date of Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002, **06.04.2022.**

Amount in Demand Notice : Rs. 83,14,697/- (Rupees Eighty Three Lakhs Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Seven Only)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY : SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : All the piece and parcel of the Apartment bearing No. T-2 in 3rd Floor, of Property No. 42, "Soundarya Nivas" (Old No. 41, 44, earlier No. 129), 2nd Cross, Azadnagar, Bangalore-560 018, With super built up area 1050 sq ft along with undivided share in land measuring 240 sq ft, One Car parking and bounded on : East by : Property belongs to Sri. Abdul Jabbar, West by : Road, North by : Flot No. T-1, South by : Conservancy Lane.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : All the piece and parcel of the Appartment bearing No. F-1 in 1st Floor, of Property No. 42, "Soundarya Nivas" (Old No.41,44,earlier No.129), 2nd Cross, Azadnagar, Bangalore-560 018, With super built up area 1050 sq ft along with undivided share in land measuring 240 sq ft, One Car parking and bounded on : East by : Property belongs to Sri. Abdul Jabbar, West by : Road, North by : Road, South by : Flot No. F-2.

Date: 29.03.2023 **Sd/-Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Udaya Souharda Credit Co-Operative Society Ltd.**

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद–दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works.

कार्य का शीर्षक तथा ई-निविदा सूचना सं. / Title of work & E-Tender Notice No.	पी.ए.सी./P.A.C.
टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में एएसओई भंडारण सुविधा का निर्माण (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of ASOE Storage Facility at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works) NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/36/2022-23 Dt. 31.03.2023	रु./Rs. 294.64 लाख/Lakhs
एएसओई सुविधाएं, एसपीएआरसी, टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी के लिए प्रस्तावित डीजी सेट के संबंध में विद्युत कार्य / Electrical works in connection with proposed DG set for ASOE Facilities, SPARC, TERLS, VSSC. NIT No. VSSC/CMG/E01/18/2022-2023 Dated 31.03.2023	रु./Rs. 79.76 लाख/Lakhs

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 03.04.2023, 13:00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 17.04.2023, 23:00 बजे/hrs

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। / Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in.

Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / CMG, VSSC

₹7,936 cr have been invested by foreign investors in the Indian equities in March mainly driven by bulk investment in the Adani Group cos.

Future of UPI: Users unlikely to be charged for transactions

Currently, end consumers are not charged for any UPI transactions, and according to experts, this might continue for another couple of years

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

IN the last few years, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has become the preferred mode and also the inclusive mode of payment in the country. According to the Reserve Bank of India, over 26 crore digital payment transactions are processed daily by payment systems, of which UPI system alone processes over two-thirds.

Last week, when the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) issued a circular regarding an interchange fee of 1.1% on UPI transactions, there was a lot of confusion and also questions whether customers will be charged for UPI transactions.

But the retail payments and settlement body immediately clarified that there are no charges for bank account to bank account-based UPI payments and that interchange charge has been introduced only for prepaid payment instrument (PPI) merchant transactions.

Paytm CEO and founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma tweeted that there is no charge to consumers for UPI payments from bank accounts or from wallets (or from RuPay credit cards). "For merchant-only if they agree to accept and ok to pay any charge levied by QR company, they will be activated. Right now government is paying for payment charges to be charged to merchants for payments from UPI," he said.

From April 1, 2023, interchange fee is being levied on merchant payments above ₹ 2,000 to specified merchant categories.

DIGITAL MODE

- Close to **250 million** Indians use UPI for their day-to-day transactions, according to NPCI
- RBI says over **26 crore** digital payment transactions are processed daily by payment systems
- Of which, UPI system alone processes over two-thirds
- Every month, over **8 billion** transactions are processed free for customers and merchants using bank-accounts, says NPCI
- UPI transactions crossed ₹**14 lakh crore** in March 2023. Volume hit **865 crore**

No fee for the ultimate users

At present, when consumers do UPI transactions, who is bearing the cost? Shashank Sharma, Director at Scoreme Solutions, said the actual operators through the UPI, like Paytm, Google Pay etc and banks are bearing the operational cost as no fee was so far levied on the ultimate user - the customer.

"All transactions routed both by the commercial banks as also the payment facilitators operating through the UPI platform were bearing their respective costs depending on the number of transactions handled," he added.

NPCI's recent move will result in revenue generation for payment service providers, assisting them to achieve and maintain profitability on UPI transactions, said Akash Sinha, CEO and Co-Founder, Cashfree Payments.

"This will in-turn enable them to improve their service quality as well as innovate and devise effective solutions. This is significant in ensuring the interests of all stakeholders in the payments ecosystem, catalysing the sustainable growth of the sector," Sinha added.

P2P & P2PM transactions

Sinha explained, "In Peer to Peer (P2P) payments, a user transfers funds from his bank account to another individual's account using digital mediums like net banking and UPI. So, if an individual is sending money to friends, family or any other individual or a small business merchant's bank account, it will not attract an interchange fee. As stated by NPCI, the interchange fee will not be applicable to P2P transactions or P2PM(peer-to-peer-merchant) transactions between a bank and the prepaid wallet." NPCI spoke about interchange fees in its circular. Who will have to pay this? "The acquiring bank (which is the bank of the merchant) will have to pay the interchange to the Issuing Entity, and likely this charge will be recovered from the merchant in some form," Harish Prasad, Head of Banking- India, FIS, told TNIE.

Prasad added that the PPI Issuers will benefit from this move as their service to use UPI for merchant payments using their wallet/card was not resulting in any direct revenue to the PPIs, and they have been out-of-pocket on the costs involved. In its vision statement, the RBI said UPI to register average annualised growth of 50% and IMPS / NEFT at 20%.

UPI is the payment method of choice for most of the customers in the current digital ecosystem. It offers the end customer the security as well as convenience to transact, said Ramakrishnan Ramamurthy, Executive VP, Worldline India. "The scale of UPI has only been growing exponentially YoY. Given that it is a public good and at the centre of digital transformation in India, we do not see the commercials being enforced on it in the near future," he added. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das at an event recently said that the launch of UPI in 2016 has revolutionised the payments ecosystem with about 803 crore transactions worth ₹13 lakh crore processed in January 2023 alone.

He said, "Our home-grown payment products, UPI and RuPay network, are enhancing their global footprint. Launch of UPI linkage with Singapore's PayNow is a major step forward. In future, such linkages with other countries will make cross-border payments simple, affordable and real-time. QR code-based merchant payments through UPI apps are already enabled in Bhutan, Singapore and UAE."

Future of UPI

When asked what the future of UPI looks like and how long can it be free? Harish Prasad said that neither consumers- account holders, nor merchants have had to pay for the service as a transaction-linked charge so far, and this situation has been described as unsustainable by many in the industry given the increasing costs for banks, issuers and PSPs of processing UPI transactions.

"This is putting a lot of pressure on NPCI and the regulator to relax this view, lest the quality of services start to suffer," he said. He doesn't expect relaxations on this position to be incrementally introduced over the next year or two. "The beauty of UPI is that it provides rails for a variety of use-cases which can go well beyond retail payments and start to increasingly make sense for B2C, C2B and even B2B payments. The rails will also expand to cover more account-types and that will also likely lead to further expansion in volumes. The simplicity of transacting via a simple identifier such as a phone number makes for a compelling benefits case for newer payment use-cases," he added.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY YOUR MONEY NEEDS AN 'IMPACT' PLAYER

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

A new rule in T20 cricket introduced by the Indian Premier League or IPL, the annual mega event, has lessons for your money. Every team can introduce an 'impact player' at any time in the game. It is a substitute player you take based on the match situation. The concept is not new, as substitution existed in football and partially in cricket before. However, the change could make strategizing for every game interesting.

As cricket evolves, your money strategy also deserves an evolution. You cannot rely on advice from people you think to know a lot about investing. You have to get an independent financial advisor to support you. While the financial advisor can recommend investing strategy, your impact player has to be determined by you. You may have to choose an impact player from available options in every situation.

Financial goals

The first step in financial planning is setting up financial goals. Your dreams primarily drive these. They could be related to 'World Travel' and 'owning a home at an exotic location', among other things. A professional financial planner would be your impact player. You must sit with them and identify your life goals. The next thing to do is split them between short-term and long-term goals. Once you do that, you can make an appropriate asset allocation with the help of your financial advisor.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

New to investing

If you are new to the investing world, your impact player is your ability to absorb information. You must work on that and know as much as possible about the asset classes you wish to invest in regularly. There are books, periodicals and articles you should read. Have conversations with your knowledgeable friends. If you can, engage a professional financial advisor.

Your first step could be to start a systematic investment plan in an exchange-traded fund. However, you must know the basics before you take that step. For example, you need to know about factors that influence interest rates or companies' future profits.

Already investing

If you are already an investor and manage a portfolio, you must focus on identifying assets that could potentially give you that impact player performance. That could be a bunch of fundamentally solid companies or a portfolio of sectoral funds. Your advisor can help you identify new ideas. Those could be buying property at a location with growth potential or companies that could turn into multi-baggers. You need to tread carefully in such a situation, though. You need to do your research besides listening to advice from others.

Impact player performance

If you are already an investor and manage a portfolio, you must focus on identifying assets that could potentially give that impact player performance. That could be a bunch of fundamentally solid firms or a portfolio of sectoral funds. Your advisor can help identify new ideas.

Protecting your capital

You need a well-diversified portfolio in a situation of rising interest rates and volatile financial markets. The impact player in such a situation could be a debt fund or a liquid fund, or even a fixed deposit. For example, the year 2022-23 turned out to be a year of negative returns for investors if you look at the performance of the S&P BSE Sensex.

In such a situation, gold turned out to be an impact player. It gave you appreciation at a time when everything else was trading flat or losing value. The other important thing to do is get good life and health insurance. You do not want to cut down on your investments in case of any emergency. Your money must work for you while you are busy with your work.

Financial markets are driven by greed and fear. You must learn to understand the factors that drive prices, even if that means spending a few minutes every day reading a financial daily, periodicals or books. You may not be a finance professional. However, you must assume that some knowledge of finance is suitable for your financial well-being. Your money needs direction.

If you are not willing to shepherd it, somebody else will. Finance can get overwhelming if you are not into it. But then, not everyone can play professional cricket too. It is like how you know so much about cricket without playing it.

MONEY-WISE

VOLATILITY AND INVESTOR BEHAVIOUR

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

VOLATILITY during 2023 was anticipated by many of us at the turn of the year as also, the uptick in inflation and hardening of rates. However, the Hindenberg report on the Adani group which more than halved its market-capitalisation came out of the blue and set the cat among the pigeons, so to speak, at the Indian equity markets.

This also led to a slam-dunk across equities resulting in a decline in the key frontline indices too. The silver lining here was that an overheated market let off steam and there were value picks available for the taking among the lot of shares whose prices got hammered and to an extent that defied logic.

The decline in indices was largely triggered by the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) selling off lock, stock and barrel and factoring in the worst case scenario that could play out in India post the Hindenberg report. So, what happens if that scenario does not play out and the inevitable damage is lesser than anticipated ?

Once the dust settles, will those FIIs be back, sooner rather than later, on a buying spree and will that trigger a sharp surge in the Indian indices? Time alone can tell, though if I were a betting man, that is where my money would be. When that will happen, if it does, is really the tougher question to answer.

For long, at the guest lectures I conduct at B-Schools I have spoken to the students about the difference between linear and lateral thinking while investing at the bourses. Back at my place of work, we interact with a fair number of well educated High Networth Investors (HNIs) patrons from urban areas across the globe, who have expectedly discussed the state of the market and the road ahead with my team. Most of them have even decided to top up their investments via the SIP / STP route which, I believe, is an optimal linear decision.

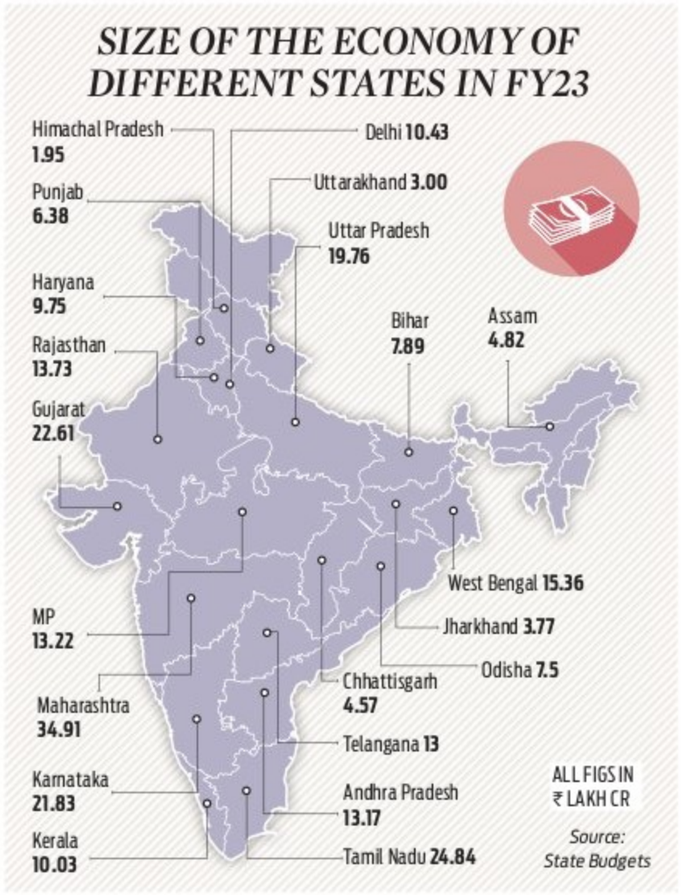
A few of our HNI patrons hail from rural areas across India and what they lack in terms of educational 'labels', they more than make up with their lateral thinking ability to sense a killing whenever the opportunity presents itself. A couple of them surprised us by simply asking to invest fairly large sums via the Lump-Sum route, sans any queries on the state of and outlook for the equity market.

As a matter of abundant caution and professional compliance, my team did explain the pros and cons of making lump-sum investments and that too in a market that seems precariously perched in the near-term.

Well, their line of thinking was simple. The investments they were making were for their next generation and with a time frame of a decade in hand, they were confident that the returns would be handsome. Given that kind of clarity of thought, there was little left to debate.

Linear or lateral thought, it is the ability to ride risks and with immense patience, that separates 'few winners' from the 'many also rans' in any equity market.

SIZE OF THE ECONOMY OF DIFFERENT STATES IN FY23



Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra: A brilliant camera phone, but too expensive

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

Last month, South Korean tech giant Samsung launched its flagship smartphone, Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra, at a price of ₹1,24,999. Given the price of the device, one can expect it to be equipped with all the best or refined features and hardware.

After using the smartphone for more than three weeks, Samsung has not disappointed at all. It outdoes in terms of camera performance, has brilliant display, fast performance and a very good battery life. So what is the shortcoming? Yes it has: One is its price and the other that it takes a long time to charge.

About the phone

Built with an aluminium body, Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra looks similar to its predecessor, but gives a premium look. At the bottom edge, it has SPen, speaker grills, SIM tray and

USB Type C port while on the side edges Samsung has placed a screen lock button and volume rockers. The phone doesn't feel heavy in hands, but one has to use both hands to use it.

In terms of display, the Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra comes with a 6.8-inch OLED display, with a resolution of 3088 x 1440 (Edge Quad HD+) and a refresh rate of 120Hz. Samsung S23 Ultra is powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 processor,and comes with up to 12GB of RAM and up to 1TB of internal storage. We found no lags while using the device. We tried many things, including opening multiple tabs, apps, watching videos and playing heavy games. We also did not face any heating issues.

Cameras and battery backup

It won't be wrong to call the camera section the best offering of the S23 Ultra. The phone comes with a 5,000mAh battery, but no charger inside. The other flaw with the phone is that it takes time to charge properly, which sometimes can be very irritating. However, once it is fully charged, it can last more than a day for average users.

Our take

The Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra is a good phone with all the latest features. But there are a few things, which let the phone down. That includes taking time to charge, no charger in the box and price. The phone's competitors offer the same features, if not similar, at less price. Buy it for its camera performance.

Excise collection on petro goods to fall by ₹60k crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

For second year in a row, the Central government is going to see the excise duty collection from petroleum products falling.

In 2022-23, the fall is likely to be much sharper than it was in the previous year.

According to government estimates, excise duty collection from petroleum products in 2022-23 is likely to be around ₹3 lakh crore compared with ₹3.63 lakh crore in the previous year.

The fall is owing to a sharp excise duty cut in May 2022, when the government was forced to slash excise on petrol by ₹8 per litre and ₹6 per litre on diesel as international crude prices had breached $115 a barrel. Petrol prices in some places during May 2022 had touched ₹120 a litre, while diesel prices had crossed ₹100 a litre mark. Though crude oil prices have since moderated and fallen below $80 a barrel, the government has not hiked the excise duties.

This has impacted the excise duty collection in 2022-23.

According to government data, the government has collected ₹2.51 lakh crore in excise duty from petroleum products in the first 11 months of 2022-23.

During the same period previous year, excise duty collection was around ₹3.06 lakh crore. A part of this loss is likely to be made good by collections from levy of windfall gains tax on exports of crude oil and refined petroleum products.

The government expects to collect ₹25,000 crore from windfall gains tax in 2022-23.

Sindhu loses in Madrid Spain Masters final

PV Sindhu of India was completely routed by Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in a lop-sided women's singles title clash at the Madrid Spain Masters Super 300 tournament. Sindhu looked completely clueless during her 8-21, 8-21 demolition at the hands of world number 12 Tunjung. Before the loss, Sindhu head-to-head record against the Indonesian was 7-0.

INDIAN CRICKET'S REAL SUPERSTAR DURANI PASSES AWAY

VISHNU PRASAD

ON Sunday, Salim Durani raised his bat one final time and left the field. He was 88.

In the 1960s and 70s, before the men in blue and IPL, when cricketers could still walk around in the street unhindered, Durani was the closest Indian cricket had to a superstar. Decades before Indian cricketers were treated on par with Bollywood superstars, Durani starred in one, alongside Parveen Babi.

The Kabul-born Durani was never the most technically proficient, but more than made up for that with some audacious hitting. That, and his natural good looks, made him a fan favourite. Upon his omission from the squad for a Test against England, the people of Kanpur protested holding placards that said 'No Durani, No Test'.

His big-hitting ensured that his more than handy bowling abilities were never much talked about. Durani took 74 wickets in 29 Tests including three five-wicket hauls. In 1971, when India beat the fearsome West Indies in the second test — a victory that would hand Indian cricket its first series win ever — it was Durani who turned the match in the second innings, dismissing Clive Lloyd and Gary Sobers.

Salim Durani trains budding cricketers at Jamnagar, Gujarat in January 2004. (Inset) He interacts with Anil Kumble at an award function in Mumbai in 2006 | PTI

It is said that death often makes myths out of men, but Durani made that transition a while ago. Rarely has Indian sport had a figure who perfected the art of being colourful without being obnoxious. Everyone had stories to tell about him and when it came to Durani, no story was too far-fetched.

In 2019, the great entertainer was gracious enough to grant this reporter an audience. His health had worsened and he was living with his niece at the time. Just as popular consciousness had relegated him to a dusty corner of cricketing history, Jamnagar had confined him to one of its most ancient corners, a room on the roof of a house that was inaccessible by car, separated from the rest of the world by a large wooden gate. Durani held court from a worn-out blue sofa that was covered with a tattered blanket. Ill-health though had not dented his famous sense of humour of someone who, when asked why he had been omitted for a tour of England, had quipped 'maybe, it's too cold for me'.

Neither had his famous sense of style deserted him. It was May and Jamnagar was burning under the summer sun, but Durani would still not be seen without a blazer. The Gold Flake cigarettes that almost always featured in stories about him were lying scattered on the table, along with an assortment of keys, pills and beedi packets with the number 11 prominently featured on them.

But perhaps most importantly, his spirit was still there, indomitable, unconquerable. As he recollected stories of fans mobbing him or begging him to hit sixes — requests that he obliged without fail — his smile betrayed genuine happiness, something that can only come towards the end of a life lived without regret.

The final question that I put to him was whether he wished his prime had come fifty years later, in an era where big-hitting cricketers were demigods, flooded with endorsement deals and installed in the middle of a bidding war by IPL teams. His reply was accompanied by that all-conquering smile. "I am happy with what I got."

Salim Durani Ji was a cricketing legend, an institution in himself. He made a key contribution to India's rise in the world of cricket. On and off the field, he was known for his style. Pained by his demise. Condolences to his family and friends. May his soul rest in peace.

Narendra Modi, India Prime Minister

Deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Salim Durani ji. A really warm and loving person. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

Sachin Tendulkar, former India player

Sound of familiar music returns to Chepauk

Led by Dhoni, the four-time champions last played in front of home fans when they met Mumbai Indians in the first Qualifier on May 7, 2019

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

CHENNAI has many familiar rhythms that pairs with the months/seasons. Pleasant mornings in December and January? 'Tis the season for some Carnatic music. Soul-shattering heat coupled with water-bottle becoming a mandatory item in your bag? April to September (you could argue this is pretty much through the year). Larger than life cut-outs adorning cinema complexes? A big-budget movie is around the corner. Weather bulletins carrying a menacing tone? October. Or November.

From 2008 till 2015, the city added another emotion to its calendar. The start of the summer became palatable as that meant it was Chennai Super Kings season. The team became an ornament in a city whose craze for cricket was only matched by three other things beginning with the same letter (carnatic, cinema and coffee). For the majority of the eight years from 2008, Chepauk had an ethereal — not only because the lights were on whenever the franchise was in town — glow to it for three months between March and May.

That light was switched off for the next two seasons following a ban. In 2018, after the side came back after the two year suspension, the gates were again locked after Cauvery protests in the city (the Stadium wasn't immune to the protests as one match against Kolkata Knight Riders witnessed unsavoury scenes). Normalcy was restored in 2019 before the world turned upside down thanks to Covid a year later.

Chennai's last match at home was the first Qualifier against Mumbai on May 7, 2019. Since then, they, like the other franchises, have tried to make do. It will change on Monday when MS Dhoni — one of the franchise's few remaining links between 2008 and now on the playing side — walks out for the toss against Lucknow Super Giants.

With Monday's match being one of only three home games for Chennai in the first half of the campaign, it's imperative they begin well. Even otherwise, its importance cannot be understated because the franchise and the MA Chidambaram Stadium is like comfort food; rasam rice and potatoes on a rainy day. Home advantage is a given, almost essential, in an home-and-away format but, even by those standards, this team are like a gold standard. The strips suit their brand of spinners; low, slow and ideally suited to take games deep. In that context, the likes of Mark Wood — who picked a five-for in Lucknow's first match — will have to generate more pace through the air if he's to remain as effective off the surface.

Eyes on captain

One player who will hope for fewer returns for Wood is Dhoni for whom this is an important match, even in the context of this season. In what is likely to be an unofficial tour, he remains an integral cog in the CSK wheel. But he has to pull his weight, especially after a slightly below-par 2022 in the desert.

Having won four titles with the team in Yellow, it's safe to say the 41-year-old has earned enough goodwill to decide when to 'exit stage left'. Arguably, he had picked his moment in 2022 when Ravindra Jadeja was handed the armband. By the time the season finished, though, Dhoni was back marshalling the troops.

One could see the reasons behind the management going back to Dhoni when they might have been tempted by the idea of looking towards the future like they did in 2008 when they eschewed the idea of an icon player before the player auction. "What you need to remember is (almost) every other team in that auction had an icon player," CSK official, Kasi Viswanathan, had told this daily in 2020. "When we went for him, we were fairly sure he would become an icon. He had already captained India to the World T20 title and we were confident that he would go on to be one of the legends."

CSK's predictions turned out to be right. The former India captain hasn't needed to pay for a beer in a long time in these parts. But he's playing the role of a specialist captain who comes in at No. 7 or No. 8. While he does retain that ability to hit boundaries at the death, certain limits have cropped up in his game (hitting the spinners, for example) over time. It's possible to imagine Ben Stokes being asked to take over the captaincy from next season but in the immediate future, Dhoni will again have to show what made him such a successful captain.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Virat Kohli in action against Mumbai Indians on Sunday | VINOD KUMAR T

Openers and bowlers behind handsome victory for RCB

AGENCIES @ Bengaluru

ROYAL Challengers Bangalore openers made light work of chasing down a tricty 172 set by Mumbai Indians. On a true wicket, Virat Kohli and Faf du Plessis, especially, laid waste to all sorts of bowling to take the franchise to an easy eight-wicket win. Jason Behrendorff can be nippy on most surfaces but Du Plessis took him to the cleaners in the third over, with two sixes. In the other end, Kohli, after being dropped by Jofra Archer off his own bowling, capitalised on the life by dancing down and hitting him for six.

The hosts' bowlers set the match up by running through the Mumbai top-order. In fact, they may have been bowled out for under 125 if not for Tilak Varma who finished with an unbeaten 84. **Brief scores:** MI 171/7 in 20 ovs (Varma 84 n.o) **lost to** RCB 172/2 in 16.2 ovs (Kohli 82 n.o, Du Plessis 73).

Royals batters set up easy win against hosts Sunrisers

AGENCIES @ Hyderabad

RAJASTHAN Royals', on the back of a typically brilliant Jos Buttler thrust in the powerplay, powered past Sunrisers Hyderabad by 72 runs in their Indian Premier League opener in Hyderabad on Sunday. Asked to bat first on a batting wicket, Yashasvi Jaiswal wasted little time in setting the tempo of the game. He scored the first three of his boundaries inside the opening eight balls to give the visitors a rapid start.

That's when Buttler cut loose, climbing into all of Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1x6, 2x4), Washington Sundar (2x6), T Natarajan (4x4) and Fazalhaq Farooqi (3x4) in four successive overs. He was dismissed by Farooqi off the last ball of the powerplay for a 22-ball 54 but the carnage was complete.

Chasing 204, Hyderabad were never in it after they lost two wickets in the first over.

Brief scores: RR 203/5 in 20 ovs (Jaiswal 54, Buttler 54, Samson 55) **bt** SRH 131/8 in 20 ovs (Chahal 4/17, Boult 2/21).

After loss in opener, Chennai Super Kings seek home comfort

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

A CONFIDENT-LOOKING Lucknow Super Giants, who registered a convincing victory against Delhi on Saturday, will take on Chennai Super Kings at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Monday. On the other hand, Chennai, who lost their opening match against Gujarat, would like to make amends when they face the Lucknow franchise.

Chepauk is the den of CSK and with the support of fans, they would look to capitalise on familiar conditions to open their account. They will once again want Ruturaj Gaikward to give them a good start. Riding on a good domestic white-ball season, Gaikwad slammed a polished 92 against Gujarat.

Gaikwad, who trained at Chepauk along with the CSK team, looks forward to playing in home conditions. "I think everyone is excited to play at Chepauk. When I came to know there will be home and away games I was really looking forward to playing at the newly renovated stadium. I am sure everyone in the group is also excited because fans will be back, we are hoping to have a full house," he said. Despite Gaikwad's knock, CSK batters could not capitalise as they failed to post a big total against Gujarat. CSK coach Stephen Fleming hoped that his team would do better against Lucknow.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

CSK vs LSG, 7.30 PM, Chennai — LIVE ON STAR SPORTS AND JIO CINEMA

EXPRESS READ

Verstappen victorious in Australian GP

MELBOURNE: Max Verstappen held off a revived Lewis Hamilton to steer his Red Bull to a chaotic win at the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday and tighten his grip on the world championship. Hamilton came home second ahead of Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso, who made it three podiums from three this year. "We had a very poor start, lap one I was careful as I had a lot to lose," he said.

NRAI chief goes on 'prolonged leave'

NEW DELHI: The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Raninder Singh has gone on a "prolonged leave" following a Sports Ministry directive that heads of national sports federations (NSFs) cannot hold office for more than 12 years as per the National Sports Code. The ministry has also asked the NRAI to hold elections for the post of president within the prescribed timeline.

Boxer Mandeep wins 4th professional bout

NEW DELHI: With the legendary Roy Jones Jr. by his side, Indian pugilist Mandeep Jangra won his fourth professional bout, by technical knockout over American Ryan Rebar in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He turned pro in 2020 and now holds a 4-0 record. Mandeep was recently signed up by Jones for the next three years, becoming the first from the country to associate with the American boxing great.

Kvitova clinches Miami Open title

MIAMI GARDENS (FLORIDA): Twelfth-seeded Petra Kvitova won the Miami Open in her 13th appearance, beating seventh-seeded Elena Rybakina with a marathon tiebreaker in a 7-6 (14), 6-2 victory Saturday. Kvitova, 10 years older than her opponent, snapped Rybakina's 13-match winning streak and halted her bid to win the Sunshine Double (Indian Wells and Miami Open).

Lifter Ajith one step closer to enriching legacy of TN village

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

ALMOST a year ago, Tamil Nadu weightlifter N Ajith suffered a heartbreak. Despite clinching 73kg gold in the national championships, he failed in the selection trials held to pick up the Indian team for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Achinta Sheuli outperformed him to make it to the team and went on to pocket gold at the Birmingham CWG.

Ajith returned to his village, Sathuvachari, in the Vellore district to iron out flaws. The tiny hamlet has given renowned weightlifters including Olympians like M Tamil Selvan and Sathish Sivalingam to the country and Ajith wanted the legacy to continue.

"I worked at a local gym with my uncle N Baskaran. I also attended a few camps organised by my employer, Indian Railways. It helped as I beat Achinta in the 2022 Gujarat National Games before retaining the gold in the 2023 National Championships," Ajith told this daily.

The nationals gold meant he returned to the national camp at NIS Patiala where he, on Friday, made up for the loss he suffered a year back. He came out with flying colours in the trials held to select the national team for the Asian Championships scheduled in Jinju, South Korea from May 3 to 13. The continental championships is one of the five events a lifter has to compete in if he/she wishes to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics. Incidentally, the big event will be Ajith's senior international debut and he is excited for the opportunity as it will give him a chance to carry forward his village's legacy.

N Ajith (L) with his uncle N Baskaran

"My uncle Baskaran brought me back to the village from Bengaluru where we all were living. He motivated me to take up weightlifting at the age of 14. Had it not been for him, I would have been selling fruits with my father Narayana on the roadside in Bengaluru," said the 23-year-old Ajith.

At 17, he joined a SAI centre in Mayiladuthurai. There he honed his skills with coach S Shanmugavel, who is now secretary-general of the TN Weightlifting Association. "My uncle, who is a railway coach, took care of my family. He married my elder sister as my family shifted to the village from Bengaluru. My father's health deteriorated so he stopped working. It was my uncle who helped me with coaching, requisite diet and the supplements I needed in the formative years. The good thing is I got a job with Indian Railways as a ticket collector two years ago so our financial woes are over now," the lifter added.

Ajith has a few goals in mind before the season begins. "My aim is to lift 150kg in snatch and 180kg in clean and jerk. I did that during training in Vellore while staying away from the national camp. During the selection trials on Friday, I could lift only 141 and 170 in the respective sections but I hope to achieve the target by September before the Asian Games."

The competition will be tough if Ajith wishes to qualify for the Paris Games. The biggest competitor will be Sheuli. Another CWG gold medallist, Jeremy Lalrinnunga, who competes in 67kg, may also change his weight category to 73kg to fulfill his Olympic dream.

"It was never going to be easy. Achinta and me both will compete in the 73kg at the Asian Championships. Jeremy may also come in the weight category as it is an Olympic weight category. It's good as the competition will help us all in getting better," Ajith signed off.

India team for Asian Championships

Women: Mirabai Chanu 49kg, S Bindyarani Devi 55kg. **Men:** Subham Todkar 51kg, Jeremy Lalrinnunga 67kg, Achinta Sheuli 73kg, N Ajith 73kg.

Lewandowski double in Barca's victory over Elche

AP @ Barcelona

ROBERT Lewandowski scored twice in Barcelona's 4-0 win at last-place Elche on Saturday as the Catalan club moved a step closer to their first Spanish league title in four years.

Lewandowski opened the scoring in the 20th minute and added Barcelona's third goal in the 66th to take his league-leading tally to 17 goals in his first season in Spain.

Ansu Fati doubled the lead in the 56th and Ferran Torres rounded off one of Barcelona's most comfortable victories of the campaign in the 70th. Barcelona picked right up where it left off before last week's international break when they beat Real Madrid 2-1 in the league to deal what is looking like a decisive blow to their rival's title defense.

Barcelona will try to beat Madrid again on Wednesday in the second leg of their Copa del Rey semifinal match. Barcelona won the first leg 1-0 in the capital.

Newcastle beat United

LONDON: Newcastle avenged their League Cup final loss against Manchester United as Joe Willock and Callum Wilson clinched a 2-0 win that lifted the Magpies into third place in the Premier League on Sunday. Eddie Howe's side were beaten 2-0 by United at Wembley five weeks ago. Meanwhile, West Ham scrambled out of the relegation zone as Nayef Aguerd's first goal for the club sealed a 1-0 win against Southampton.

Ryuichi Sakamoto, a Japanese musician who scored for Hollywood movies such as *'The Last Emperor'* and *'The Revenant,'* has died. He was 71. Japan's recording company Avex said that Sakamoto died on March 28

The Biden administration cleared the way for California's plan to phase out a wide range of diesel-powered trucks, part of the state's efforts to drastically cut planet-warming emissions and improve air quality

School shooting propels US to boost security

States are introducing bills which require schools to instal tech that heighten safety

TECH

PORTLAND: In the wake of an elementary school shooting in Tennessee earlier this week that left three 9-year-olds and three adults dead, state legislatures across the country are moving forward with bills aiming to improve school safety.

The bills have been introduced in blue and red states alike and would require schools to install technology ranging from panic buttons, video surveillance and emergency communications systems. Most have bipartisan support, with lawmakers seeing them as a way to boost school security while avoiding political gridlock on the hot-button issue of gun control. But some experts say teacher safety training is more effective and less expensive than the new technologies, which also can require upgrades or ongoing maintenance that may not be funded.

That hasn't stopped states from Oregon to Missouri to Tennessee from pursuing the systems.

"I was asked by a colleague if our schools will have to become fortresses to keep our kids safe. And I told them yes, if that's what it takes. I don't care if we have to park a tank outside a school," Tennessee's Republican House Majority Leader William Lamberth said.

While Democratic state lawmakers have called for tighter gun laws as a way to stem school shootings, many are now also supporting the school emergency measures that have largely been touted by Republicans. In Oregon, where Democrats control the Legislature, a bill that would require schools to send electronic notifications to parents as soon as possible after a safety threat occurs passed the state House unanimously this week. Two Democratic lawmakers are the chief sponsors of another bill that would require all public school classrooms to have panic alert devices that would contact law enforcement or emergency services when activated.

If passed, the panic alert bill would make Oregon the fourth state—along with Republican-led Florida and Democratic-led New Jersey and New York—to enact such a law. Several other states are considering similar legislation. "If there's anything we know, it's that during an emergency, time equals life," said one of the Oregon bill's chief sponsors, Democratic state Rep. Emerson Levy.

Some school districts aren't waiting for legislation to implement new security measures such as panic devices. Las Vegas's Clark County School District, among the ten largest districts nationwide, is now using a system involving badges called CrisisAlert.

The badges can be worn around the neck and pressed to call for help or trigger a school-wide lockdown.

EXFILE • SCIENCE

What are auroras, and why do they come in different shapes and colours

OVER MILLENNIA, HUMANS HAVE OBSERVED AND BEEN INSPIRED BY BEAUTIFUL DISPLAYS OF LIGHT BANDS DANCING ACROSS DARK NIGHT SKIES. TODAY, WE CALL THESE LIGHTS THE AURORA: THE AURORA BOREALIS IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, AND THE AURORA AUSTRALIS IN THE SOUTH

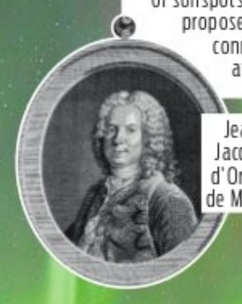
TRACING HISTORY

17TH CENTURY: Scientific explanations for what caused the aurora began to surface

1716 English astronomer Edmund Halley was the first to suggest a possible connection with Earth's magnetic field

1731 French philosopher named Jean-Jacques d'Ortous de Mairan noted a coincidence between the number of sunspots and aurora. He proposed that the aurora was connected with the Sun's atmosphere

Edmund Halley



Jean-Jacques d'Ortous de Mairan

EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD AS A PARTICLE TRAP

The most common source of aurora is particles travelling within Earth's magnetosphere, the region of space occupied by Earth's natural magnetic field

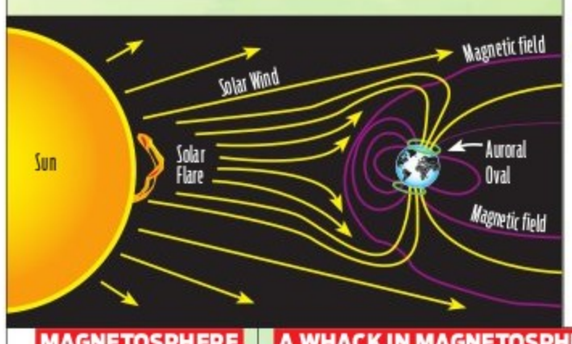
The magnetosphere is composed of charged particles that have escaped from Earth's upper atmosphere and charged particles that have entered from the solar wind

COLOUR DECODING

The most common are the greens and reds, which are both emitted by oxygen in the upper atmosphere

Green auroras correspond to altitudes close to 100 km, whereas the red auroras are higher up, above 200 km

Blue colours are emitted by nitrogen, which can also emit some reds. A range of pinks, purples and even white light are also possible due to a mixture of these emissions



PARTICLE PRECIPITATION

As a result, the charged particles are now likely to collide with atmospheric particles as they reach the polar regions

This is called 'particle precipitation'. Then, when each collision occurs, energy is transferred to the atmospheric particles, exciting them. Once they relax, they emit the light that forms the beautiful aurora

PROMINENCE OF AURORA

Even under quiet space weather conditions, aurora can be very prominent at high latitudes, such as in Alaska, Canada, Scandinavia and Antarctica

MIGRATING TO LOWER LATITUDES

When a space weather disturbance takes place, auroras can migrate to much lower latitudes to become visible across the continental US, central Europe and even Australia

MAGNETOSPHERE IN A TURBULENT SOLAR WIND

During quiet and stable conditions, most particles in the magnetosphere stay trapped, bouncing between the south and north magnetic poles

A WHACK IN MAGNETOSPHERE

However, if a disturbance in the solar wind gives the magnetosphere a 'whack,' it becomes disturbed

Particles that were bouncing between north and south now have their bouncing location moved to lower altitudes, where Earth's atmosphere becomes more dense

INTERACTION BETWEEN SOLAR WIND & MAGNETOSPHERE

Aurora appearing, disappearing, brightening and forming structures like curtains, swirls, picket fences and travelling waves are the result of the complex interactions between the solar wind and the magnetosphere

LATEST NORTHERN LIGHTS SHOW

Severity of space weather event typically controls the range of locations where the aurora is visible. The strongest events are the most rare. Recently, North America witnessed a show. As per *BBC*, officials said the aurora, which was seen from California to New York, as far south as Arizona and north in Canada, was "fairly unusual"

No more vrooming? Paris votes on e-scooter ban

TRANSPORT

PARIS: Residents of Paris voted on Sunday on whether to banish for-hire electric scooters from the streets of the French capital, which was a pioneer in adopting the divisive new form of urban transport.

City authorities once welcomed operators of app-based rental scooters with open arms, seeing them as an emissions-free alternative to cars and motorbikes.

But after a chaotic introduction in 2018, city hall has progressively tightened regulations, creating designated parking zones, limiting the top speed and restricting the number of operators.

Their presence remains controversial, with pedestrians complaining about reckless driving while a spate of fatal accidents has highlighted the dangers of vehicles that can currently be hired by children as young as 12. "They're dangerous, both for those who use them and for pedestrians," Francoise Granier, a 68-year-old doctor who voted in the 9th district of the capital, said on Sunday. "And the police never intervene."

Like her, IT worker Michael Dahan, 50, deplored the state of the capital's streets, saying: "If it was better regulated, I wouldn't be against... but you see people behaving in a crazy way." Such views are expected to dominate in the 21 voting booths set up around the French capital, with the exercise billed as a "public consultation" rather than a referendum by mayor Anne Hidalgo.

The pro-cycling Socialist leader favours a ban and announced the vote in January to settle the issue of whether they should be allowed.

"I'm committed to respecting the choice of voters, purely and simply," she said as she voted.

"It's very expensive—five euros for 10 minutes—it's not very sustainable, and above all, it's the cause of a lot of accidents," she added.

Mozambique scrambles to deal with cholera post cyclone

HEALTH

QUELIMANE: Weeks after massive Cyclone Freddy hit Mozambique for a second time, the still-flooded country is facing a spiralling cholera outbreak that threatens to add to the devastation.

There were over 19,000 confirmed cases of cholera across eight of Mozambique's provinces as of March 27, according to UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, a figure which had almost doubled in a week.

Freddy was likely the longest-lived cyclone ever, lasting over five weeks and hitting Mozambique twice. The tropical storm killed 165 people in Mozambique, 17 in Madagascar and 676 in Malawi. More than 530 people are still missing in Malawi two weeks later so that country's death toll could well exceed 1,200.

Freddy made its second landfall in Mozambique's Zambezia province, where scores of villages remain flooded and water supplies are still contaminated. At a hospital in Quelimane, Zambezia's provincial capital, National Institute of Health director general Eduardo Sam Gudo Jr said there were 600 new confirmed cases a day in Quelimane district alone, but said the real number may be as high as 1,000. At least 31 died of cholera in Zambezia and over 3,200 were hospitalised between March 15 and 29, as per data from Ministry of Health.

EVERYONE APPRECIATES ART

Ahead of World Stray Animals Day, people visit the The National Museum of Contemporary Arts in Athens with their dogs on Sunday. The museum encouraged visitors and their dogs to visit the current exhibition | AFP

FACT OF THE MATTER

Calif hopes for sun after storms

WEATHER

Californians are tired. Tired of the rain, tired of the snow, tired of stormy weather and the cold, relentlessly gray skies that have clouded the Golden State nearly nonstop since late December. With spring now underway, the state's 39 million residents are hopeful for sunnier days ahead. But this week's atmospheric river—the 12th such storm since late December—had other plans. The powerful systems dump huge amounts of rain and snow as they bring massive plumes of Pacific moisture into California. They have already wreaked havoc across the state, with a death toll rising as communities dig out and floodwaters recede. High winds toppled trees, snowfall stranded mountain communities and storm surges inundated coastal towns with no end in sight.

Europe aviation fears CO2 rules

ENVIRONMENT

European airlines fear losing out to rivals based outside the EU that can ignore the bloc's emissions-reduction rules to become carbon neutral by 2050. The "Fit for 55" package sets out an initial goal of reducing emissions by 55% in 2030 compared with the 1990 level. This involves bloc-level obligations to scale up the use of sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) to be blended with fossil fuels in all flights departing from European airports. SAFs come from sources such as municipal solid waste, leftovers from agricultural and forestry industry, used cooking oil, crops and hydrogen. These technologies are still developing and the end product is more expensive, thereby placing additional costs on airlines obliged to use them while passengers will have to pay more.

PANDEMIC POUNDS

Obesity plagues US army as 10,000 soldiers grapple with the disease

HEALTH

After gaining 30 pounds during the Covid-19 pandemic, US Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Murillo is finally getting back into fighting shape.

Early pandemic lockdowns, endless hours on his laptop and heightened stress led Murillo, 27, to reach for cookies and chips in the barracks at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. Gyms were closed, organised exercise was out and Murillo's motivation to work out on his own was low. "I could notice it," said Murillo, who is 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighed as much as 192 pounds. "The uniform was tighter." Murillo wasn't the only service member dealing with extra weight.

Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Murillo, (R), runs up hill as part of his physical training | AP

New research found that obesity in the US military surged during the pandemic. In the Army alone, nearly 10,000 active duty soldiers developed obesity between February 2019 and June 2021, pushing the rate to nearly a quarter of the troops studied.

Increases were seen in the US Navy and the Marines, too. "The Army and the other services need to focus on how to bring the forces back to fitness," said Tracey Perez Koehlmoos, director of the Center for Health Services Research at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Maryland, who led the research.

Overweight and obese troops are more likely to be injured and less likely to endure the physical demands of their profession. The military loses more than 650,000 workdays each year because of extra weight and obesity-related health costs exceed $1.5 billion annually for current and former service members and their families, federal research shows.

More recent data won't be available until later this year, said Koehlmoos. But there's no sign that the trend is ending, underscoring longstanding concerns about the readiness of America's fighting forces.

Military leaders have been warning about the impact of obesity on the US military for more than a decade, but the lingering pandemic effects highlight the need for urgent action, said retired Marine Corps Brigadier General Stephen Cheney, who co-authored a recent report on the problem.

"The numbers have not gotten better," Cheney said in a November webinar held by the American Security Project, a nonprofit think tank. "They are just getting worse and worse and worse."

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Patent granted

Gottlieb Daimler was granted a German patent on this day in 1885 for a light, high-speed, four-stroke engine with a single vertical cylinder

A KEY INVENTION

It was nicknamed the 'grandfather clock' for its distinctive appearance. It is a key invention for this put the vision of a vehicle powered without the use of horses

FIRST MOTORCYCLE

The engine was first installed in a wooden two-wheeler, which served as the first test vehicle and simultaneously entered the history books as the world's first motorcycle

MOTOR CARRIAGE

During the course of 1886, an engine was mounted into a carriage frame resulting in Daimler's first automobile and the world's first four-wheeled motorised vehicle

Check out what's happening in the city

PG 2

Avin Thaliath
(@chef_avin), pastry chef and the director of Lavonne Academy of Baking Science And Pastry Arts, dishes out a food-related quiz in this weekly series. Be a real 'whisk' taker and let us know if you have what it bakes. Who knows, your dreams may crumb true.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE. The first prize winner this week will win a voucher worth ₹1,500 from Malgudi Mylari Mane **

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Pitha 2) Chak-hao kheer
3) Anishi

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Raja A
2) Anisha Rajan
3) Sunaina S

MACHINE WITH MANNERS

P3

'For me, a career in cricket was meant to be'

Virat Kohli, who is in the city for Royal Challengers Bangalore's first match of this IPL edition, shares how he got into cricket, the kind of student he was in school and the importance of supporting those with an inclination towards sports

MONIKA MONALISA

A few days ago, Virat Kohli shared his CBSE Class 10 mark sheet with the caption, "It's funny how the things that add the least to your mark sheet, add the most to your character." He was referring to his mathematics score. Kohli had scored 51 in math in his broad exams, which was his least among all the other subjects. With most of his scores in the 70s, Kohli was teased to have figured out the 'balancing act' right from a young age. "I think the scores were quite decent considering I studied for only two months," replies Kohli.

Part of a conversation of 'Let there be Sport Conclave' organised by Puma India, Kohli emphasises that he, in no way, wants to encourage youngsters to neglect academics. "I have learnt the most important lesson from sports. There are a couple of situations where you are absolutely under pressure and have to perform. For that to happen, you have to be consistent and do daily practice. When I am in a similar situation, I make sure I don't fade away. That's what sports does to me. If you are into sports, then immerse yourself into it," says Kohli, adding that sports and fitness have always been an integral part of his life. He further adds, "My career as a cricketer has positively shaped my personality and emotional well-being. I hope my journey as a sports professional inspires the nation to make fitness a way of life."

The son of a lawyer, and coming from non-cricketing background, Kohli always believed sports happened very naturally. "I always knew I wanted to be a cricketer. Where the intuition came from I have no idea. I can't claim that I had watched my brother or father play because I got into sports on my own. I guess for me, a career in cricket was meant to be.

When I looked back, I knew that I wanted that bat to be in my hand and learn the relevant skills. That's how my journey started," says Kohli.

His initial influence was by watching various games on TV. "I was pretty decent at playing cricket. We used to live in a society where someone, upon noticing my ability to copy shots, suggested to my father that I be enrolled in an academy. My father asked me if I wanted to learn the game after which I got into West Delhi Cricket Academy. That's the brief start of me getting into sports," Kohli recalls.

Calling himself lucky, he mentions he didn't have many people around him who discouraged him from playing the game. "I never had anybody asking me why I was wasting time with cricket. I was pretty decent at studies, except for this math bit," he mentions with a laugh.

> *We used to live in a society where someone, upon noticing my ability to copy shots, suggested to my father that I be enrolled in an academy. My father then asked me if I wanted to learn the game*
>
> Virat Kohli, cricketer

PIC: VINOD KUMAR T

HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS

The air around Chinnaswamy Stadium was heavy with excitement and anticipation, as eager Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) fans queued up outside to witness their home team take on Mumbai Indians in its first match of the 2023 season. With RCB playing in the city for the first time following the pandemic, fans displayed their support by sporting team merchandise, posters of their favourite players, and painting their faces with logos of their favourite teams.

SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

This Nepali filmmaker, who was in B'luru, talks about his film that won an award at the 75th Cannes Film Festival and how Southeast Asian movies have taken centre stage

MOMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A still from the short film *Lori*

MONIKA MONALISA

Abinash Bikram Shah, who was one of the jury members of recently-concluded Bangalore International Film Festival (BIFFes), was appreciated by many for his calm demeanour. This same sensibility of his can be spotted in his recent short film, *Lori*, which was was nominated for the Short Film Palme d'Or at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival, and won a Special Jury Mention.

Shah's movie *Lori* is about a mother-daughter relationship when the daughter is getting married. "In countries like Nepal and India, we have various songs during various rituals. I've used these songs to indicate the progress of the film which also depicts the patriarchy which is being carried forward," says Shah, adding, "My father passed away when I was very young and it was my mother who brought me up and my sisters. So many of my ideas come from my upbringing."

Having gathered a lot of attention internationally, Shah felt the movie garnered curiosity because it's something different. "Another reason could be because of how the story is being told. It is a 15-minute film with four songs. It is like a musical but not like a Hollywood one," says Shah.

Not just his short film, Southeast Asian movies are enjoying their moment in the international spotlight right now. "The international audience might not have seen movies like *RRR*. Films that are being awarded are also the ones where we are proudly displaying our culture. For the international audience, it is a fresh perspective," he says.

Shah started his journey in movies as a writer with some of his movies being screened at international film festivals like the Venice Film Festival and the Berlin Film Festival. "When I started, my mother was never convinced that the film industry could be a profession," says Shah, who was born in a small town at the India-Nepal border but later moved to Kathmandu.

A huge fan of Satyajit Ray's work, Shah never thought of moving to Bollywood or the neighbouring Bengali film industry. "I feel I have so much to say that I feel I could do a better job by working in Nepali films. There are so many socio-political issues and stories in Nepal that need to be told and addressed. And I want to do it through my films," says Shah adding that there is huge financial crunch being an independent filmmaker.

PIC: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

CITY READ

Diversity and Inclusion solutions firm announces 'Inspiring Women Awards 2023'

The winners of the 'Inspiring Women Awards 2023' in the Second Career and Industry Track categories were announced on March 28 by Avtar Group, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Solutions firm. Sampoorna Rath, engineering manager at Cognizant, won the 'Inspiring Second Career Women' category of the awards, and Parvathi Govindasamy, associate specialist at KBR India, received the 'Choice of Jury' award. Manika Bhargava won the title prize for the manufacturing industry track in the inspiring women in industries 2023 category as the Inspiring Woman in Manufacturing. The awards were announced at the 15th edition of Avtar's flagship conference, SEGUE Sessions, a conclave exclusively for women.

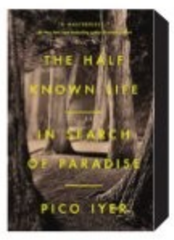
Packaged food brand celebrates World Idli Day

MTR Foods celebrated World Idli Day on March 30 by collaborating with comedian and influencer Danish Sait and hosting a number of online and offline events. To commemorate International Idli Day, MTR Foods organised a number of coordinated events across platforms. This involved distributing large quantities of its idli variety, engaging in numerous digital interactions, among other fun activities.

Exhibition till April 9

A 10-day exhibition called The Souq (Market) has been organised at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, till April 9. The market has taken precautionary measures against the spread of Covid-19. It includes over 100 stalls and artisans from all over the country will participate. They will exhibit their works, reaching customers directly. Items like home décor, handloom sarees, kurta and jewellery, handicrafts, toys and apparels, artworks, furniture, mats and porcelain items will be on display.

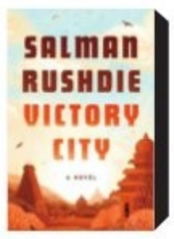
BOOK NOOK



The Half Known Life

by Pico Iyer

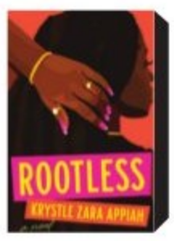
The writer brings together a lifetime of explorations to turn over our ideas on searching for paradise, a place where anxieties, struggles and burdens of life fall away.



Victory City

by Salman Rushdie

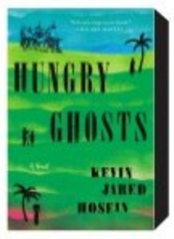
Booker prize-winning and internationally bestselling author's book is set in the city of Bisnaga in India and talks about the journey of a woman who builds a fantasy empire that lasts over 250 years. The book is a saga of love, adventure, and magical realism that is narrated through the power of storytelling.



Rootless

by Krystle Zara Appiah

A love story about motherhood, and sacrifice and provides an intimate look at what happens after marriage collapses leading two people to rediscover the ultimate meaning of their life and whether they want each other still.



Hungry Ghosts

by Kevin Jared Hosein

A tragic novel set in Trinidad in the 1940's the book juxtaposes luxury with poverty and talks of race and class, religion, historical violence etc. Rooted in Trinidad's wild pastoral landscape the book is inspired by oral storytelling traditions.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Hodophilia

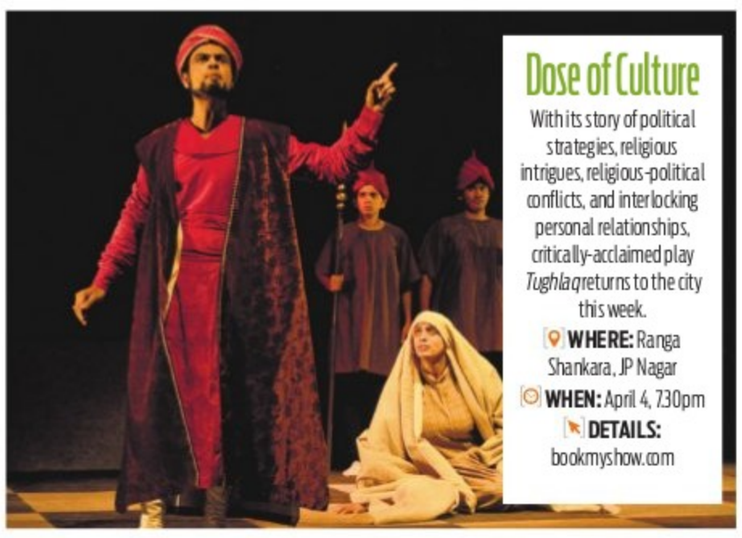
A meetup for travellers where you can share interesting travel stories. It will follow with anonymous voting for the stories shared, based on which the winner will be announced.

WHERE: Small World, Koramangala
WHEN: April 4, 6pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Cinematic notions

A discussion on the book *Philosophical Issues in Indian Cinema: Approximate Terms and Concepts*, where author MK Raghavendra will be conversing with Chiranjiv Singh and Makarand Paranjape.

WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
WHEN: April 4, 6:30pm
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org



Dose of Culture

With its story of political strategies, religious intrigues, religious-political conflicts, and interlocking personal relationships, critically-acclaimed play *Tughlaq* returns to the city this week.

WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
WHEN: April 4, 7.30pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Baking Delight

A workshop where you will be introduced to the process of cake making and the basics of cake decoration.

WHERE: Konsult Art Academy Sobha Lakeview Club, Bellandur
WHEN: April 4, 11am
DETAILS: konsultbaking.com

Party Tuesday

Go out with your friends and groove to Bollywood and desi beats by DJ Hassan. **WHERE:** Happy Brew, Koramangala **WHEN:** April 4, 8pm **DETAILS:** highape.com

Comedy Corner

Take a much-needed break while comedian Shankar Chugani regales you with his unique style of humour.

WHERE: 21st Amendment Gastrobar, Indiranagar
WHEN: April 3, 7.30pm **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Bright future

Student World Virtual Fair is a programme where you can discover the perfect universities for the educational courses you are looking for.

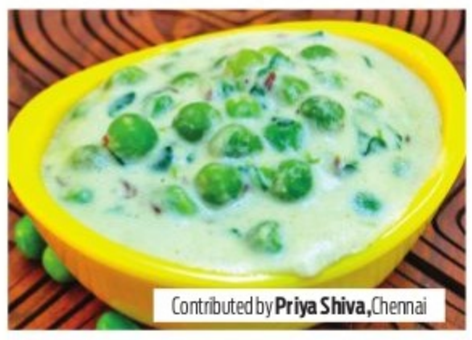
WHERE: Taj MG Road **WHEN:** April 4, 2pm
DETAILS: allevents.in

MIND OVER MATTER

On Sunday, Bengalureans experienced a mindful session with Sister BK Shivani as she highlighted the importance and power of the mind. It was organised as part of the second pillar of Aujasya by The Leela, a holistic wellness programme that guides one on their journey of well-being. | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICK FIX

METHI MATAR MALAI CURRY



Contributed by **Priya Shiva,** Chennai

INGREDIENTS

- **Methi/Fresh fenugreek leaves :** 1 cup
- **Green peas :** 1 cup
- **Onion:** 1, finely chopped
- **Garlic cloves:** 4,chopped
- **Fresh cream:** 1 cup
- **Cumin seeds/Jeera :** 1 tsp
- **Salt to taste**
- **Cashews:** 1/4 cup
- **Ginger :** 1 tbsp (chopped)
- **Green chillies :** 2
- **Garam Masala :** 1 tsp
- **Sugar :** 1 tsp
- **Vegetable oil :** 1 tbsp

METHOD

- Soak cashews in some warm water for 15 minutes.
- Add cumin seeds, chopped onions, ginger, cashews and garlic to your blender and blitz it and keep it aside.
- Add frozen peas in hot water and set it aside for 10 minutes. Drain water.
- Add oil in a frying pan and when oil is warm, add the cashew paste and saute for few minutes till oil separates from the gravy.
- Add methi, garam masala, sugar and mix it well. Lower the flame and let it cook for two minutes.
- Add green peas, salt and mix well.
- Now add cream, stir and cook it on low flame for few minutes.
- Transfer into a bowl and serve it roti.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

PARSVA SUKHASANA VARIATION

(EASY POSE VARIATION SIDE BEND I)

This is a seated asana where the torso folds in a side bend with the legs in Sukhasana (Easy Pose). This is a wonderful way to teach beginners the basics of lateral bend. Helps in improving the range of motion of the lower back to follow deeper side bends.

STEPS

- Start in Sukhasana. Rotate the shoulders back, chest open, palms resting on the knees, and chin slightly in. Keep jaw relaxed, soften face. Keep the erect giving a natural lift to the heart.
- Inhale, bring the right palm on the floor next to the hips, and exhale. Press the left palm firmly on the knee, bending the right arm at the elbow, and bend sideways to the right.
- Ensure your spine is erect, the neck remains in line with the spine, i.e., ear drops towards the shoulder, and the upper body, especially the shoulder on the left, does not come forward.
- Stay here for five deep breaths, feeling the stretch with the chest openining and shoulders broadening.
- To release, inhale, make the right arm straight, come back to centre. Bring the arm back on the knee. Relax for a while in Sukhasana Variation Arms Knees.
- Repeat on the other side. Stay for five breaths.
- Release and relax in Easy Pose Variation Arms Knees. Those who find it difficult can practise in Vajrasana or on the chair.

BENEFITS

- Strengthens the arms and shoulders.
- Improves flexibility in the lower back.
- Open the sides of the torso, encouraging deeper breathing.
- Encourages use of the upper body muscles.
- Releases the day-to-day tension or stress stored in the body and mind.
- Included in yoga sequences for seniors to encourage the opening of the chest, diaphragm and address back pain.
- Great way for pregnant women to ease the entire upper body heaviness and tightness, releasing lower body stiffness.
- Included in restorative yoga sequences for women during their chemotherapy for breast cancer.
- Students with frozen shoulders can follow this without building any stress in the arms and shoulders.

LIMITATIONS

People experiencing dizziness, high BP, vertigo, pain in neck, shoulders, wrists, sides of the body, or legs should practise it slowly.

People recovering from an injury, undergone any surgery should practise under guidance of a yoga expert. Those with severe lower back, knee or hip pain, avoid this.

By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

RUN BABY RUN (Tamil)

A happy-go-lucky guy with a simplistic view of life becomes caught up in a myriad of tricky situations and a race against time.

Cast: RJ Balaji, Isha Talwar, Aishwarya Rajesh

Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

MISSION MAJNU (Hindi)

Set in the 1970s, an undercover Indian spy takes on a deadly mission to expose a covert nuclear weapons program in the heart of Pakistan that could destroy the free world.

Cast: Sidharth Malhotra, Rashmika Mandanna, Bhumika Chawla

Watch on: Netflix

THUNIVU (Tamil)

A criminal mastermind and his team form a plan and commit bank heists across Chennai, but the motive of their heists remains mysterious.

Cast: Manju Warrier, Ajith, John Kokken

Watch on: Netflix

RAYMO (Kannada)

Raymo, a brash rockstar entangled in dysfunctional familial relationships, falls in love with Mohana, a committed classical singer. However, dire circumstances force them into separation.

Cast: Ishaan, Ashika Ranganath, Madhoo

Watch on: ZEE5

WRITER PADMABHUSHAN (Telugu)

Padmabhushan, a 25-year-old aspiring writer based out of Vijayawada, India, sets off on a roller-coaster ride full of innocuous fun and soft emotions with his middle-class family.

Cast: Suhas, Tina Shilparaj, Rohini

Watch on: ZEE5

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

GULMOHAR (Hindi)

Following the multi-generation Batra family, who are all set to move out of their 34-year-old family home, and how this shift in their lives is a rediscovery of the bonds that have held them together as a family with secrets and insecurities.

Cast: Manoj Bajpayee, Sharmila Tagore, Suraj Sharma

Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

IRATTA (Malayalam)

After a cop is found dead, a policeman's investigation sparks a chilling search for the truth connected to his estranged twin and their fraught past.

Cast: Joju George, Anjali, Sreekant Murali

Watch on: Netflix

FOREIGN

SLOW HORSES (English, series)

Following a dysfunctional team of MI5 agents — and their obnoxious boss, the notorious Jackson Lamb — as they navigate the espionage world's smoke and mirrors to defend England from sinister forces.

Cast: Gary Oldman, Olivia Cooke, Kristin Scott Thomas

Watch on: Apple TV

THE NIGHT AGENT (English, series)

While monitoring an emergency line, an FBI agent answers a call that plunges him into a deadly conspiracy involving a mole at the White House.

Cast: Gabriel Basso, Luciane Buchanan, Sarah Desjardins

Watch on: Netflix

THE STAND (English, series)

When a man-made plague wipes off most of the human populace from the face of the Earth, a few survivors battle each other to determine the fate of their species.

Cast: Amber Heard, Alexander Skarsgård, James Marsden

Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (English)

Nothing in Cassie's life is what it appears to be — she's wickedly smart, tantalizingly cunning, and she's living a secret double life by night. Now, an unexpected encounter is about to give Cassie a chance to right the wrongs from the past.

Cast: Carey Mulligan, Bo Burnham, Alison Brie

Watch on: Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Sony LIV:	₹ 299 per month
Zee5:	₹ 399 for 3 months
Disney+Hotstar:	₹ 199 for 3 months
Netflix:	₹ 149 per month

Here's a look at how Mahindra's first-ever electric SUV, the XUV400, fares

MACHINE WITH MANNERS

LAKSHMI C PILLAI

MAHINDRA, the Indian auto giant known for the versatile vintage "jeeps" to the modern tech-filled XUV 700 has always tasted success with SUVs. Its iconic THAR crossed a significant production milestone of 1 lakh units on March 29.

However, to see what is in store for the future, one has to look at the firm's electric plans. That's why I tried my hands on Mahindra's first-ever electric SUV, the XUV400. Here's what I saw, studied and experienced.

What to see...

The XUV 400 reminds me of Mahindra's compact SUV XUV300. That's not a bad thing; it is essentially the electric version of the XUV 300. But this one is 400 meters longer. On a closer look, we can see that instead of a grill, there is a closed panel with many Xs carved on it. A few Xs have copper colours on their two arms, like an arrow. Mahindra's new twin-peak logo is copper colour, instead of the chrome logo in petrol-diesel SUVs. And this copper theme continues to lower parts of the bumper too, making it a theme colour for the e-SUV.

We know some other brands use blue stripes for that 'e'-branding. So copper definitely helps XUV 400 stand out.

When we open the boot, we can see a benefit. The XUV 300 has only 257 litres capacity, while this e-version comes with 378 litres. The cabin wears the familiar look of the petrol/diesel SUV and doesn't have any special electric feel. Overall, its black interior theme has an elegant look. We can see clever inserts of copper in the cabin too. Having a wheelbase of 2600 mm, the cabin space and legroom are very generous. The back seat is wide enough to occupy 3 adults. All seats are comfortable.

What to learn...

The XUV comes in two versions — EC and EL. EC has a lithium-ion battery pack of 34.5 kWh, offering a range of 375 km, while EL comes with a 39.4 kWh battery, offering a 456 km range. The EC version has two charger options — 3.3 kW and 7.2 kW.

The top variant EL has the faster charger of 7.2 kW.

In addition, the XUV400 can be charged from any 16 Amp plug point. Both versions have the same motor, with a peak power of 110kW (150PS) and a torque of 310 Nm.

XUV400 offers three drive modes (Fun, Fast and Fearless), with a combination of steering, throttle and regenerative energy response. The instant torque helps the car to achieve impressive acceleration, 0-100 kmph in a mere 8.3 seconds and a top speed of 150 kmph. The model has amazing driving manners, too. The vehicle comes with a 17.78 cm touch screen-infotainment system offering good connectivity and information regarding the car, charging infrastructure etc, and a three-year standard warranty with unlimited km.

It has an additional warranty of eight years or 160,000 km (whichever is earlier) for the battery and motor.

Variants & showroom prices

EC (3.3kW charger): **₹15.99 lakh**

EC (7.2 kW charger): **₹16.49 lakh**

EL: **₹18.99 lakh**

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV showsand anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

XPRESS HIGHWAY

FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

Smooth player

LAKSHMI C PILLAI

OUR roads are now ruled by SUVs of different sizes. But still, there is a loyal fan base for sedans. The time-tested three-box design hasn't lost its charm even now.

For those who look for a sedan below ₹10 lakh, Hyundai Motors has recently launched its upgraded compact sedan Aura. It has many plus points to satisfy the needs of modern users. This is what I found.

Looks

AURA now comes with 4-airbags as standard, with an option of six ones. The front has a new black radiator grill and LED daytime running lamps on the bumper. The front bumper has also been redesigned to impart a wider look to the sedan. The rear is updated with a spoiler to make it look wider and sportier. The interior continues to be classy and has a new seat fabric design.

Safety

The new AURA is India's first compact sedan to offer four airbags as standard fitment across variants and six airbags as an option.

Electronic Stability Control, Vehicle Stability Management and Hill Start Assist Control are offered as standard with Smart Auto AMT variants and as an option with five-speed manual transmission. Tyre Pressure Monitoring System, Burglar Alarm and Automatic Headlamps are also part of the package.

The new AURA boasts of a host of advanced and intuitive features such as Footwell Lighting, Wireless Phone Charger, Fast USB Charger-Type C, Automatic Headlamps, 8" Touchscreen Display Audio with Smartphone Connectivity and Cruise Control.

Engine & price

The sedan meets the latest real-time driving emission (RDE) norms and is able to run on E20 fuel. The 1.2L petrol engine comes with a five-speed manual transmission as well as AMT. The engine has 82 Hp(61kW) power and 114 Nm torque. There is a CNG version too — with five-speed manual transmission. Its power is 50.5 kW (68Hp) and its torque, 95 Nm. Showroom price ranges from ₹6.29 lakh to ₹8.72 lakh for petrol variants. The two CNG bi-fuel variants are available at ₹8.10 lakh and ₹8.87 lakh.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PAVITHRA RAJKUMAR** (New Name), aged about 47 years, W/o. RAJKUMAR KRISHNAN, RESIDING AT NO.55, 1ST FLOOR, 10TH CROSS, 1ST-B-MAIN ROAD, R.K.EXOTICA, VENKATEGOWDA LAYOUT, HEBBAL, BENGALURU-560024, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **PAVITHRA CHUVATA PUDIYAVEETIL** (Old Name) to **PAVITHRA RAJKUMAR** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **PAVITHRA RAJKUMAR** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 30/03/2023 before Notary **GANGARAJU.B.N.** at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **S. KUNAL**, S/o No. 1380193-L, Ex. Naik, K. Sampath Kumar, R/o 604, Annaiah Reddy Layout, Doddabanaswadi Post, Bengaluru-560043, have changed my name from **S. KUNAL** to **KUNAL SAMPATH KUMAR**, vide affidavit dated 31-03-2023, before Notary **GANGARAJU .B.N,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, the undersigned **MAHESH SAMSHAY** (New Name), previously called **MAHESH G K** (Old Name), aged about 28 years, S/o. Mr. Krishnachari, resident of No: 147, Ground Floor, Jagattrana, 3rd Main, Best-County 2, Near Sambhram College, Bangalore-560097, Karnataka State, India do hereby solemnly declare and state that I have changed my name from **MAHESH G K** to **MAHESH SAMSHAY** by swearing to an affidavit in front of Notary public **Mr. K.B. Sadha Shivappa** on 01.04.2023 for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SATHYAMMA MURALIDHARAN NAIR** R/at 7D West Klassik Benchmark Bannerghatta Road Near Nithesh Hyde Park Kalena Agrahara Bengaluru - 560076 have changed my name to **SATHI MURALIDHARAN NAIR** vide affidavit dated: 30/3/2023 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NARAYANA MOORTHY ARUMUGADOSS**, (vide Passport No. L3506783, Date of Birth : 07.10.1949), S/o. Mr. Arumugadoss, Residing at House No. 5, 2nd Cross, Ayyappa Layout, Behind KMF, Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560 037, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NARAYANA MOORTHY ARUMUGAM** to **NARAYANA MOORTHY ARUMUGADOSS** vide affidavit dated 01.04.2023 sworn to before K.V. Jagannath Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MEENA PHANIRAJ**, Aged about 46 years, W/o. Gopalakrishna Kunchi Paniraj, No. 11, 2nd Floor, 5th Cross, 2nd Main, JP Nagar 2nd Phase, KSRTC Layout, Bangalore - 560 078, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MEENA PANIRAJ** to **MEENA PHANIRAJ** vide affidavit dated 01.04.2023 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMRITLAL DAYALAL S/o. Late. Dayalal Residing at #216, 9th Main, Near Venkataswamy Temple, Srinagar, Bengaluru- 560050 Declare that AMRITLAL DAYALAL and D. AMRATLAL are one and the same person i.e. Myself. Henceforth, I Will be Known as AMRITLAL DAYALAL vide affidavit dated 31.03.2023 sworn before Notary R. Vishwanath, Bangalore

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SARITHA A J, D/o Jayanna**, Aged about 29 years Residing at: Kadur Taluku, Anatharagatte, Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka-577547. I, declared that my PF wrongly mentioned in my name is **SAVITHA .A.J,** instead of **SARITHA A J,** I have decided to continue my name in future as **SARITHA A J,** vide affidavit dated 20-03-2023 sworn before Advocate and Notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Mr. Syed Mohiddin** S/o Syed Dasthagir, R/at # 100, 2nd Cross, Jamiya Masjid Road, Islampur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562 123 do hereby declare that my correct name is **SYED MOHIDDIN,** my father name is **SYED DASTHAGIR** and my Date of Birth is 01-06-1971, vide affidavit dated 29th March 2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **GANGARAJA .C.B** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **D. NIRMALA,** Spouse of No. 1380193-L, Ex. Naik, K. Sampath Kumar, R/o 604, Annaiah Reddy Layout, Doddabanaswadi Post, Bengaluru-560043, have changed my name from **D. NIRMALA** to **NIRMALA SAMPATH KUMAR** and DOB: 10-03-1971 to 16-07-1968, vide affidavit dated 31-03-2023, before Notary **GANGARAJU .B.N,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **CHIKKANNACHAR,** S/o Lata Kalachar, age 56 years, R/at No. E-49/2, Srigandakaval, Hoysalanagar, Sunkadakatte, Bengaluru-560 091 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VENKATESH GOWDA @ CHIKKANNACHARI** to **CHIKKANNACHAR,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **CHIKKANNACHAR** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 6-3-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.V BACHI REDDY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **UMANG CHANDERMOHAN SHARMA,** S/o Chander Mohan Sharma, R/o No.5D, Cosmos Klassik Landmark, Off Sarjapura Road, Choodasandra Junnasandra, Carmelram Bangalore-560035, have Permanently Changed my name as **UMANG SHARMA,** vide affidavit dated 28/03/2023 sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, B'lore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Sampada Milind Singtamkar**, D/o. Sri. Milind Singtamkar. Aged about 21 years, Residing at No. Setu-16, Art of Living Center, Udayapura, Kanakapura Main Road, Uttarahalli Hobali, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru - 560 082, do hereby declare that my correct name is **Sampada Milind Singtamkar.** I state that, I had been issued with passport bearing No.R0334625, **Singtamkar Sampada** on 15-05-2017 by the regional passport office at Bengaluru wherein my name has been shown as **Singtamkar Sampada** in wherein my name i.e., **Milind** has been not mentioned in my passport and hence the same has to be added in my passport. Vide affidavit dated 01.04.2023 sworn to before Dr. R.S. Vijay, Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MADHUSUDHAN V (MADHUSUDHAN VARADARAJU),** Aged about 34 years, C/o. Varadaraju J, No. 414/C, 7th Cross, Hanumanthnagar, Bangalore - 560 019, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MADHUSUDAN V (MADHUSUDAN VARADARAJU)** to **MADHUSUDHAN V (MADHUSUDHAN VARADARAJU)** vide affidavit dated 01.04.2023 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **YADAGIRI RAO KUTTANUR PURUSHOTHAMA,** Aged about 46 years, S/o. Late. K. R. Purushotham Rao, Residing at Tower 17-17047, Prestige Song of South, Yellanahalli, Begur, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560068, India, declare that I have changed the name of my Minor Son from **KUTTANUR MEENAKSHI RAGHAVA SAI CHARAN** (Old Name) to **K. M. CHARAN** (New Name), Henceforth, my Son shall be known and called as **K. M. CHARAN** (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 01/04/2023 before Notary T. R. RAGHAVENDRA RAO, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I,**JAYALAKSHMAMMA** @ LAKSHMAMMA, W/o.Late.Laxminarasimhachar @ Puttappa, aged about 76 years, residing at No.27/2, B-Cross, A.K.Colony, Mysore Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560026, I declare that my actual and correct name is **JAYALAKSHMAMMA @ LAKSHMAMMA** W/o **Late.Laxminarasimhachar @ Puttappa,** vide affidavit dated 31/3/2023 sworn to before B.V. Nagabhushana advocate and notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ARPAN ABHINASH JENA,** S/o Umakanta Jena, aged about 25 years, R/at C-209, Ramanna Midtown Rhythm, Beside Adarsh Palm Meadows Borewell Road, Opposite Sky Lark Greens, Ramagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore-560066, do hereby declare that both the names i.e., **ARPAN ABHINASH** and **APRAN ABHINASH JENA** are one and the same and belongs to me only, vide affidavit dated 31-03-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **Y.V. SHANKAR** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JANAKI SUNDARAM / S. JANAKI,** W/o Late S. Sundaram, R/o 24, 1st Cross, 1st Phase, Royal Shelters, Maruthi Layout, Bannerghatta Post, Devarachikkanahalli, Bengaluru-560076, have changed my name as **VASUNDHRA .P,** vide affidavit dated 01-04-2023 before Notary **K. VENKATESHAN,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AKHILESH GHOSH,** S/o Sri Sobur Uddin Sheikh, age 27 years, R/at 574, 30th Main Road, Banagiri Nagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560 085 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MOHAMMEDE AKHLRUL ISLAM** to **AKHILESH GHOSH,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **AKHILESH GHOSH** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 01-04-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **P.N. NAGESHA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUNIL KUMAR,** S/o Vadakkan House Krishna Kumar Kumar R/o No. 202, 2nd Floor Shashwathi Residency, Plot no. 107&108, Kamakshi Layout Gottigere, Bangalore – 560083 have Permanently Changed my name as **SUNIL KUMAR UDYAVARA,** vide affidavit dated 28/03/2023, sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JAYAPRAKASH .V,** S/o. Sadanandan, Aged about 58 years, R/at Areekara Post, Chengannur District, Near Kappil Jn, VTC: Mulakuzha (Part) PO-Areekara Sub District, Alapupuzha Street, Kerala - 689 505, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VATTAPARA** to **JAYAPRAKASH .V** vide affidavit dated 30.3.2023 sworn to before G. Dayananda, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **LAKSHMI MURALIDHARAN KURUP,** Resident of Bharathi Ladies PG, 1st Main Cross Road, Koramangala 1st Block, Bengaluru - 560 034, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KURUP LAKSHMI MURALEEDHARA** to **LAKSHMI MURALIDHARAN KURUP** vide affidavit dated 01.04.2023 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BHURARAM, S/o Hajariram, aged 49 years, R/at No.41/1, 4th Cross, 1st Main Road, Vijayalakshmi Hospital, Behind Kalyananagar, Moodalpalya, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072, have changed my name to **BHURARAM H,** vide affidavit dated: 31.03.2023 before notary K.V. MANI, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hemant Ramniklal Kanani, aged about 48 years, son of Mr.Ramniklal Ratilal Kanani, R/o F-306, Habitat Splendour, Near CMR Institute, Brookefields, Bengaluru - 560037 (Karnataka) India, have changed my minor daughter's name from '**ARIA KANANI**' to '**ARIA HEMANT KANANI**' vide Affidavit dated 01/04/2023 sworn before Advocate and Notary Indira S.S, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **B.R. SATHYA** also known as **"BELLALA RAVI SATYA",** D/o Sri P. Ramachandra Chetty, W/o Sri Ravi Prakash .B.V, aged about 60 years, R/at No. 22, 1B, Sri Rangaaiswarya", Pampamahakavi Road, Shankarapuram, Bangalore-560004, do hereby declare that all the names i.e., **B.R. SATHYA, BELLALA RAVI SATYA, SATYALAKSHMI .P, SATHYA .B.R, SATYALAKSHMI BELLALA RAVI PRAKASH,** are one and the same and belongs to me only, vide affidavit dated 30-03-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **H.S. DHARMA PRASAD** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VARENYA VIJAYKUMAR,** aged about 35 years, D/o K. Vijaykumar, R/at #A3, 1403, Elita Promenade Apartment, RBI Layout, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru-560078, Karnataka State, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VARENYA** to **VARENYA VIJAYKUMAR,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **VARENYA VIJAYKUMAR** only, vide affidavit dated 31-03-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **L. GOPALAKRISHNA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ARATHI** R/at No. 38, 3rd Floor 2nd Main 3rd Cross Sri Gururaghavendra Layout JP Nagar, 7th Phase Bengaluru -560078 have changed my name to **ARATHI RAVI AMIN** vide affidavit dated: 30/3/2023 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAKSHITH APPANNA GOWDA** father of **BHAVIK RAKSHITH GOWDA**, R/o "Sri Anjanadri Nivasa" #3A, Harsha Layout Road, 5th Cross Muddanna Garden, Kengeri Bangalore - 560060, have permanently changed my son's name from **BHAVIK RAKSHITH GOWDA** to **YUVIN RAKSHITH GOWDA,** vide affidavit dated 01/04/2023, sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAKSHITH RAJ SRIKANTH**, Aged about 20 years, C/o. Srikanth Gopalan, No. 17, Mahika Mansion, Arasappa Layout, Thathaguni, Near Uday Timbers, Kaggalipura, Bengaluru - 560 082, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUDHARSHAN SRIKANTH** to **RAKSHITH RAJ SRIKANTH** vide affidavit dated 01.04.2023 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MUKESH KUMAR @ MOHANLAL JAIN MUKESH KUMAR,** S/o. Mohanlal Umedmal Jain, Aged about 35 years, Residing at # 9,H-1304 Eta Garden Apartment, Bangalore - 560023, do hereby declare that, both the names **MUKESH KUMAR** and **MOHANLAL JAIN MUKESH KUMAR** are one and the same and belongs to me only. Vide affidavit dated 01.04.2023 sworn to before Ravi, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT

I, SHALINI SRINIVAS D S, W/o. Srinivas Murthy V, aged about 37 years, R/of No.2, 9th Main, 6th 'A' Cross, A.G.S. Layout, Subramanyapura, Bangalore-560061, Karnataka, have declared that the names **SHALINI SRINIVAS D S, DEVATHA SURYANARAYANA SHALINI, SHALINI D S & SHALINI SRINIVAS** belongs to me only, and both names belongs to one and the same person, have decided to continue my name in future as **SHALINI SRINIVAS D S,** vide affidavit dated 28-03-2023 sworn before Advocate & Notary Mamatha N.K, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHWETA KAMATAGI,** Wife of Anand Kamatagi, resident of No.15/G2, Anjanadri Apartment, 7th Main, 8th Cross, Rajiv Nagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560085, India, have changed my name from **SHWETA KAMATAGI** to **SHWETA PUROHIT,** vide affidavit dated 01/04/2023 sworn before notary BKR KRISHNAMURTHY, Reg No.1351, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **CHAITRA SANTOSHKUMAR SHIRAHALLI,** aged about 37 years, W/o Sathoshkumar Shirahatti, R/at #B1002, Arvind Sporcia Apartments, Behind Manyata Tech Park, Rachenahalli Main Road, Dr. Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560077, Karnataka State, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **CHAITRA MUGALAGERI** to **CHAITRA SANTOSHKUMAR SHIRAHATTI,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **CHAITRA SANTOSHKUMAR SHIRAHATTI** only, vide affidavit dated 01-04-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **GANGARAJU .B.N** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ANITHA RAJU,** aged about 36 years, W/o Vinod Kumar, R/at #8, 2nd Floor, Bullet Krishnappa Building, Balaji Layout, Tata Nagar, RMV Extension II Stage, Bengaluru-560097, Karnataka State, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANITHA VINOD KUMAR @ ANITHA .K** to **ANITHA RAJU,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ANITHA RAJU** only, vide affidavit dated 01-04-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **GANGARAJU .B.N** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRIYANKA** R/at No.41/1, B M Road, Opp Hotel Gold Field KGF, Bangarapet, KGF (Kolar)- 563122, have changed my name to **PRIYANKA SUBHASH** vide affidavit dated: 1/4/2023 Before Notary **Sivakumara. M.N** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **BHAVYA SAASLAPURA CHANDRASHEKAR** W/o Rakshith A, R/o "Sri Anjanadri Nivasa", #3A, Harsha Layout Road 5th Cross, Muddanna Garden Kengeri, Bangalore - 560060, have permanently changed my name as **BHAVYA RAKSHITH,** vide affidavit dated 28/03/2023, sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GEETU RANI**, Aged about 42 years, W/o. VikasBansal, M201, Mantri Espana, Kariyammana Agrahara, Sakra World Hospital, Bellandur, Bengaluru - 560 103, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **GEETU** to **GEETU RANI** vide affidavit dated 01.04.2023 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, P.K. KAMINI Spouse of No. 1235317N Rank: Ex NK Name: MONNAYYA M.K. Resident of No.22, Shanthi Nivas, 7th 'A' cross, Nanjappa Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097 Have changed my Name from P.K. KAMINI to SHANTHI. M.M. and My Correct Date of Birth is 27.08.1952 instead of 20.04.1955 vide affidavit dated 30.03.2023 sworn before Notary R. Ramesh, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Latha Lokesha, W/o Dr. A. Lokesha, aged about 45 years, residing at No.77, 7th Cross, 3rd Main, BSK 3rd Stage, C.T.Bed Layout, Benglauru-560 085, have changed my name to **LATHA K.G.** vide affidavit dated 31.03.2023 sworn to before K.V. Bachi Reddy, Advocate and Notary, Bangalore

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SUDEEP BREAKS HIS SILENCE ABOUT HIS NEXT; ANNOUNCES THREE PROJECTS

The Abhinaya Chakravarthy of Sandalwood surprised his fans with a note, where he discusses the reason behind taking a break and his plans for future projects

CE FEATURES

POST the release of *Vikrant Rona,* Sudeep has been taking time to announce his next project, and fans have been asking for an update about the same. Finally, Sudeep broke his silence and wrote a note explaining his plans, and future projects. Explaining that he is aware of the tweets and memes doing the rounds about Kichcha 46, Sudeep shared that this was his first break in his career.

"After *Vikrant Rona,* I needed a break. Being a part of Bigg Boss (OTT and TV) and the film was tough due to Covid and the long schedules. The best way to enjoy my leisure time was to do something that made me happy," mentioned Sudeep, who added that he finds relaxation in playing Cricket, and enjoyed spending time with KCC and KB, which gave him a good break.

Sudeep mentions that he and his team were simultaneously working on the scripts."Discussions and meetings about various projects were part of my life, Preparations are underway for all three scripts, which demanded a huge amount of homework. The respective teams are working hard. It will be officially announced soon. With love and hugs to you," his note read.

Digging a little deep into the projects, we learned that the lineup includes a project with Kabali producer, Kalaipuli S Thanu, and buzz is that the actor has given a go-ahead to debutant director Vijay, and in all likelihood, this will be his 46th project. However, a confirmation about this Kannada-Tamil bilingual is awaited. Sudeep's other project is a film with *Vikrant Rona* director Anup Bhandari, which is titled *Billa Ranga Baadshah.* An announcement of this was made by the actor as well as the director, and preparations are underway. Sudeep has also given the green signal to director Nanda Kishore and director Venkat Prabhu. There were also reports of the actor collaborating on a project with Lyca Productions.

This apart, the actor, who is a notable director, plans to helm a project soon and also talked about directing Salman Khan. We will have to wait and watch which of these projects turns into Kichcha 46.

Sudeep

YOGI-SHOONYA TEAM UP FOR A STYLISH GANGSTER DRAMA

This actor, who played the character Ganga in Shoonya's first film *Head Bush*, will now play the lead in the latter's second project

A SHARADHAA

YOGI is set to collaborate with Head Bush director Shoonya for a gangster drama. Incidentally, in Shoonya's debut, starring Dhananjay, Yogi played the character of Ganga, which was one of the highlights of the film. According to Shoonya, he had parallelly worked on this gangster subject along with *Head Bush.* "Unlike Head Bush, which was based on the Bengaluru underworld, this gangster drama is fictional," says the director, whose project will be officially launched in the next week.

This yet-to-be-titled project will be producer Rajesh's first venture. The makers, who have selected the lead, are in the process of finalising the rest of the cast.

While the team is yet to finalise the music director, cinematographer Sunoj Velayudhan, who worked in *Head Bush* will be joining hands with the director once again. The team, which is now in the preparations works, plan to begin the shoot by April end.

Yogi's line-up of projects includes Lankasura, along with Vinod Prabhakar, which is getting ready for release. He is also part of Rakshit Shetty's production venture, *Bachelor Party,* directed by Abhijit Mahesh which is in the last phase of the shooting process. *Parmila Lodge*, *Aadide Aata*, *Kamsa*, and *Siddlingu 2* are some of his other projects that have been announced.

Yogi

SHOONYA

Kaustubha Mani gets a big break with *45*

The actor, who made her transition from television to the silver screen, will star as the female lead in Arjun Janya's directorial debut

CE FEATURES

KAUSTUBA Mani, known for her work in the television serial *Nannarasi Radhe,* is making her silver screen debut in director and actor Tej's *Ramachari 2* which sees its release this week. Now, Kaustuba has bagged a biggie as she has been signed as the female lead in composer Arjun Janya's directorial debut *45*, which already stars Shivarajkumar, Upendra, and Raj B Shetty.

Kaustuba Mani will be paired opposite Raj B Shetty in the mass entertainer. Backed by Ramesh Reddy under the Suraj Productions banner, the makers plan to officially launch the film on April 27.

45 will reunite Shivanna and Upendra for the fourth time after *Om, Preetse, and Lava-Kush,* this is the first time Raj and Kaustubha will be sharing screen space with the superstars. Arjun, who has written the story and screenplay of *45* will also be doubling up as the music director. 45 will be a multilingual project, which will also be released in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi.

Kaustubha Mani

Pentagon is my first attempt at an anthology: Manikanth Kadri

CE FEATURES

MAKING an anthology is definitely a challenge, and it is one such challenge that composer Manikanth Kadri took up with the upcoming series, *Pentagon.* Calling it a learning experience, Mankanth reveals that he has composed a theme-based song for all five stories. The theme song, written by Raghu Shivamogga and sung by Ananya Bhat, was released on Saturday.

"The films in *Pentagon* underline death, so the melody is dark and thought-provoking," says Manikanth, who adds that in the twenty-plus years of his career, it is the first time, he got the opportunity to compose for an anthology.

Apart from the theme music and background score, Manikanth has also composed bit songs for each story. "Composing bit songs for five short stories, I had to look into the ethnicity, concept, geography, genre, the plot of each subject, before composing the music because the impact of each story depends on the setting," he says.

Manikanth believes that films like *Pentagon* winning at the box office will help a lot of young filmmakers to experiment with such genres.

Pentagon, produced under Guru Deshpande's G Cinema banner, has the producer joining the list of directors like Raghu Shivamogga, Akash Srivatsa, Chandra Mohan, and Kiran Kumar, who have helmed the various parts of *Pentagon.*

> *Composing bit songs for five short stories, I had to look into the ethnicity, concept, geography, genre, the plot of each subject, before composing the music because the impact of each story depends on the setting*
>
> – Manikanth Kadri, music director

Shivaji Surathkal trailer is out; Ramesh Aravind is back as the ace detective

A still from the film

CE FEATURES

RAMESH Aravind turned out to be our own version of Sherlock Holmes in Akash Srivatsa's *Shivaji Surathkal* (2020). Now, the actor and director are back with the second installment, which revolves around the mysterious case of Mayavi. Ahead of the film's release on April 14, the makers released the film's trailer on Saturday, and it has been getting an overwhelming response.

The film shows us the family side of Shivaji Surathkal, who had lost his wife Janani (Radhika Narayan) and is happy to spend time with his young daughter Chukki alias Siri Surathkal. In this case, he finds there is a connection between the victim, the murderer, and himself.

Joining Ramesh Aravind is Meghana Goankar, who instructs Shivaji to handle the case. With a background score by Judah Sandy, the cinematography is by Guruprasad MD.

In a previous interaction with *CE,* Akash said Shivaji Surathkal 2 will be a personal and professional roller coaster ride for the ace detective and it will take everything he considers dear to win the case. *Shivaji Surathkal* will be distributed by KRG Studios, features Sangeetha Sringeri in a special song and stars Raghu Ramanakoppa and Vidya Murthy in pivotal roles.

Team *Shivaji Surathkal*

Cocktail hero Viren Keshav's next film titled *Rabasa*

CE FEATURES

VIREN Keshav, who marked his debut with director Sriram's *Cocktail,* has signed his sophomore film. Titled *Rabasa,* the Raj Chaitanya directorial is billed as a complete action entertainer with elements of love, sentiments, and emotions. Produced by Dr. Shivappa, the makers have finalised locations in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Chikkamangaluru, and Kodagu. The team plan to begin the shoot this month after finalising the rest of the cast and crew, and will shoot some portions in Goa, Nepal, and Bangkok.